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## Weizman, Hussein discuss Syrian track

BATSHEVA TSUR  
AMMAN

JORDAN, Syria and Egypt are coordinating moves on the peace process and expect US President Bill Clinton to put pressure on Israel to close the Hebron redeployment deal and make a gesture of goodwill toward the Arabs, a source in Amman said yesterday.

In that case, the Syrian track will quickly open up again, said the source, who was speaking during an official visit to the Jordanian capital by President Ezer Weizman.

"Despite general disillusionment now, people in Jordan still regard [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu as a friend and someone who might make peace like his [Likud] predecessors did," he added. "His Majesty [King Hussein] marketed Netanyahu to the people as a strong man who wants peace with security."

Both Hussein and Weizman referred to Syria at the press conference which followed their hour-long tete-a-tete at Ghardan Palace.

"My feeling is that there is a genuine commitment to peace on the part of Syria," said Hussein, who had spoken two days earlier with Syrian President Hafez Assad following the latter's discussions with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Hussein did not say whether the Syrian president had sent a message to Israel, but did add, "A comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without Syria and in Jordan."

"We discussed Syria and Egypt in our talks," Weizman added. "We didn't discuss the threat involving Syria, but the possibility of peace. After the Hebron deal is closed, we must carry on with a

lot of drive to further understanding in the region.

"The people of the whole region — inshallah, Syria too — will understand that one has to be courageous not only to make war but especially to make peace," he said.

He also urged "anyone who really wants peace" to go to the upcoming Cairo economic conference.

Hussein said that the US "has a major role to play in the peace process." He said he hopes Clinton, with the aid of Europe and Russia, would continue to further efforts to give the process momentum.

For his part, Weizman used the opportunity to call on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to conclude the agreement on Hebron.

"A lot depends on both sides ... I call on Abu Amar [Arafat] to try to move things in el-Halil," Weizman said, using the Arabic name for Hebron.

He warned that another bomb attack in Israel could seriously set back the peace process and said that was why Israel had made diplomatic efforts to get Syria and Iran to also help thwart such an attack.

The president and his entourage landed in Amman in two Israeli Air Force helicopters to a royal welcome. Hussein and Queen Noor, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarwat and other members of the royal family were on hand, along with Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabariti and many members of the cabinet, as the guests touched down at the heliport at Liwa Hussein Ben-Ali camp on the outskirts of Amman.

The president was accompanied by his wife, Reuma, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur, Beit Hanassi director Aryeh Shumer, military adjutant Brig-Gen. Shimon Hefetz and Ambassador Shimon Shamir.

## Clinton wins 2nd term handily

### Christopher, Perry, Kantor, O'Leary quitting cabinet

News agencies

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton came home on yesterday savoring reelection, but facing the breakup of his national security brain-trust with the resignations of the secretaries of state, defense, and commerce.

Cold war-era reality set in for Clinton even before the cheering had stopped the day after his election triumph over Republican Bob Dole in Tuesday's voting.

Even as he flew back from his home state of Arkansas to a White House staff celebration, officials in each department involved disclosed that Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry and Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor had given notice they would soon leave his cabinet.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary also signaled her planned resignation, leading a raft of expected departures of top aides including possibly Attorney General Janet Reno, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta has also said he is leaving.

Such shakeups are not unusual



President Bill Clinton, his daughter Chelsea and his wife Hillary wave good-bye as they leave Little Rock, Arkansas, yesterday to return to Washington. (Reuters)



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tion made that doubly true: Despite his relentless efforts to turn it into a major shift of American political power, he will have to work again with a Congress under Republican control; and he will have to do it without the popular majority "mandate" he craved.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent Clinton a congratulatory message. He told reporters he does not expect a change in Israeli-U.S. relations now that Clinton is free of the restrictions of the campaign.

"Whoever is waiting for special pressure from Washington after the elections, is bound to be disappointed, it won't happen," Netanyahu said.

Ahmed Qureia, the speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, said Wednesday that he hoped Clinton would now take the Israelis to task.

"We hope that President Clinton will take on a real role and put pressure (on Israel) to get the agreement implemented," Qureia told reporters.

The US ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, said yesterday that the president would not impose peace on the parties.

However, in a veiled warning, he suggested that US mediation would not be available indefinitely. "We will continue to be engaged," Indyk told reporters. "But the fact of the matter is that we cannot want peace more than the parties themselves."

The Republicans actually increased their majority in the Senate by at least one from the previous 53-47 majority. They had won 54 seats to the Democrats' 45

with one seat in Oregon still too close to call.

And all projections said they would retain a slight majority in the House of Representatives once a number of undecided races were settled.

While White House aides tried to play up Clinton's own victory over Dole as impressive enough to amount to a symbolic mandate, his numbers were solid but relatively modest by comparison with other recent presidents.

Official returns with over 99 percent of voting precincts counted showed he had won 49.2 percent of the popular support to 40.8 percent for Dole and 8.5 percent for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

While Clinton became the first Democratic president to win reelection since Franklin Roosevelt in 1944, he also became the first president of either party to be re-elected without majority support in 80 years, since Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

His total in state-by-state electoral votes, which actually determine the winner under the indirect US system, was only a few votes higher than four years ago at 379-159.

While solid, that pales next to the much higher electoral totals rung up by Republicans George Bush and Ronald Reagan in their victories over Democrats in the 1980s.

In any case, Clinton was well aware he would have to split many differences with Republican congressional opponents led again by a pair of southern conservatives, House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Senate Majority

## Young Democrats drink and eat to victory

HILLEL KUTTLER  
WASHINGTON

FORGET about dance clubs, movie houses and trendy restaurants. The twentysomethings of Washington all crammed in to the Capital Hilton — or so it seemed — to celebrate Bill Clinton's reelection Tuesday night.

The networks announced Clinton had won just after 9:00 p.m. Eastern time. The night was young and the suspense was gone.

But with each state reporting returns, with every Democrat elected or reelected to Congress, cheers and whoops of joy cascaded across a vast second-floor ballroom.

"Boo!" they yelled, when the two huge projection screens showed Dick Swett trailing Republican incumbent Senator Robert Smith 49% to 48%, with 29% of the vote in from New Hampshire.

"Yeah!" they shrieked, when South Dakota Democrat Tim Johnson went up 53% to 47% over incumbent South Dakota Senator Larry Pressler with 3% of the vote tallied.

(Continued on Page 2)

Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi.

He held out an olive branch, telling reporters on board his flight to Washington from Arkansas: "If we can recreate for the next four years the spirit that existed in Congress in the last six weeks [of the last term, when a number of reforms were approved] we can do great things."

Chief of Staff Panetta said in an NBC interview the White House would "reach out in a bipartisan way."

"I think the first priority is to sit down and work out a balanced budget, put that in place," he said. Other issues he said Clinton wanted to tackle were getting jobs for people leaving welfare, improving education, and crime preven-

tion. Bipartisan spirit, however, was not likely to stop the Republicans from pursuing potential investigations into ethics issues embroiling the Clinton White House, including charges of improper solicitation of campaign funds from Asian business interests which surfaced late in the campaign.

Clinton told reporters his victory represented a unifying of the country and the prevailing of political moderation.

But voter turnout suggested apathy had prevailed as never before among voters turned off by intense partisan invective. Officials said only 49 percent of registered voters had participated, the lowest in US history.

## Did Hussein party cross into Israel?

BATSHEVA TSUR

DID King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan, Jordanian Premier Abdel-Karim Kabariti and their wives pay a fleeting, spontaneous visit to Israel yesterday?

That was the question that was being debated last night. Weizman's Jordanian visit yesterday included a flight down to the Arab Potash Company on the shores of the Dead Sea, where Israel and Jordan have launched a joint venture to the tune of \$90 million aimed to make it the third largest potash producer in the world. Israel is providing the know-how through the Dead Sea Works across the sea, while Jordan has the raw material and infrastructure.

When it was pointed out that although only 10 kilometers separate the sites, the workers have to drive almost to Eilat to cross the border, both Hussein and Weizman spontaneously suggested that the old patrol road linking the two sides be reopened.

Suddenly, the entourage was driving across the sea on a narrow road and, after a while, the [Israeli] Dead Sea Works were ahead. No one could confirm whether the Jordanians actually crossed briefly into Israel.

The Israelis then returned to the Dead Sea Works via the road which, Beit Hanassi officials said, is for the use of workers at the two plants only.

## PA source: Hebron talks stalemated

BILL HUTMAN

THE Hebron talks have reached a "stalemate" and there are no indications that even US intervention can get the process moving again, a senior Palestinian Authority source said last night as the talks resumed in Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel.

"Nothing is happening. The contacts [with Israeli officials] are not moving anywhere," the source said. "If something doesn't happen soon it will be a catastrophe for both sides."

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has been holding meetings with advisers in Ramallah since Tuesday, trying to decide on a reaction to the present stalemate. The source described Arafat as being "angry and depressed."

Arafat put little hope in the recent efforts by US envoy Dennis Ross to bridge the remaining gaps between

Israel and the PA on Hebron, according to the source. At this stage, reports that an agreement will be reached before next week's economic conference in Cairo appear way off base, the source said.

"Israelis must realize that the fact there have been no bombings since Netanyahu was elected has a lot to do with Arafat. He has been putting a lot of pressure on Hamas and Islamic Jihad," the source said.

"Arafat didn't want to give Netanyahu any excuse to halt the peace process or to blame the PA for not doing its job. Israelis must understand why there have been no explosions for the past 130 days," he said.

According to the source, Arafat still believes he can influence Israeli public opinion to pressure Netanyahu into moving forward with the peace process.

"Arafat believes that he must reach the Israeli people and show them that they have elected the wrong man, and that things must change if they really want peace," the source said.

## Cyprus jails 2 Israelis for staging escape

NICOSIA (Reuters) — Two Israelis were jailed for four years yesterday for wlaying a Cypriot police car in the center of Nicosia to free two other Israelis in September.

David Biton, 24, and Shimon Amor, 28, from Haifa gasped when the sentence for orchestrating the short-lived escape of the prisoners to Turkish-held northern Cyprus was passed.

But their Cypriot lawyer Phoivos Clerides told Reuters: "I thought the prison sentence was quite reasonable." A third defendant, Shuki Samana, 24 — one of the escapees — was given a nine-month jail sentence, suspended for three years, for escaping custody. The other prisoner freed, Biton's brother Avi, 21, had appeared in court last month.

Biton and Amor pleaded guilty to holding up the police car on a busy street in central Nicosia in mid-September. All four escaped to the north of the island, but Turkish Cypriot police returned them the same day.

Samana and Avi Biton had been in custody on suspicion of distributing forged \$100 bills. Police were taking the two from the island's central prison in Nicosia to the coastal town of Larnaca when the unaccounted vehicle was intercepted.

The court dismissed a defense submission that severe lapses in police security tempted the defendants, but added that their confession, family circumstances and cooperation with police were mitigating factors.

David Biton and Shimon Amor released the two prisoners from the police car, but then on the back of high-powered motorcycles and roared through a United Nations checkpoint to northern Cyprus.

Avi Biton did not appear before the court, which last month jailed him for two-and-a-half years for possession and distribution of 72 forged \$100 bills in August. The earlier verdict took into account the escape.

Samana is due to reappear in court next Monday in connection with the forgery case. Defense lawyers said prosecutors are to withdraw the charges.

## Arbel said to have decided to indict Ne'eman

STATE Attorney Edna Arbel has decided to charge former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman with obstruction of justice and perhaps also with suborning a witness, in connection with allegations made by a witness in the fraud trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri, Justice Ministry sources said yesterday.

Arbel did not announce her decision last night, however, because Ne'eman is currently abroad and the ministry could not locate him. Ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed insisted that there would be no confirmation of any decision until Ne'eman could be informed.

The investigation of Ne'eman resulted from allegations made by Martin Brown, an Israeli citizen who resides in England. Brown claimed that in 1991, Ne'eman tried to convince him not to cooperate with the police investigation of Deri.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided not to get involved in deciding whether or not to indict Ne'eman, ministry sources said, because Ne'eman had accused Ben-Yair of pursuing the criminal investigation against him for personal and political reasons. (Iim)



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# Palestinians not expecting US policy change - analyst

THE Palestinians should not expect the reelection of President Bill Clinton to bring about a drastic change in US policy, and instead look to closer relations between the Palestinian Authority and US, according to a leading Palestinian academic.

"Nothing much has changed with regard to the interest of the parties concerned with the peace process," said Mahdi Abdul Hadi, head of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs.

"Mr. Clinton's new administration will continue working on the peace process based on the formula of Madrid, which means working with all the parties concerned," Abdul Hadi said in a telephone interview. The basic US position toward the

sides is likely to remain the same, he said.

He dismissed reports that the PA expected the reelection of Clinton to put pressure on Israel as "simple-minded," emphasizing that even without doing this the president could play a key role in putting the peace process back on track.

"The Palestinians continue to have someone in the White House who understands Palestinian concerns, and who is committed to remaining personally involved in the peace, like [former US president Jimmy] Carter," Abdul Hadi said.

"Clinton will continue to be loyal and committed to the interests of Israel. Anyone

who thinks otherwise is simply mistaken," he said.

"What is important for the Palestinians is that Clinton has come to know Chairman Arafat. Clinton hosted Arafat at the White House. They are on good terms, and this is good," Abdul Hadi said.

"Clinton has come to know the Palestinians, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinians' problems. ... He is not ignorant [of the issues], and doesn't have to wait to consult with his advisers," he said.

Abdul Hadi described the recent Arafat-Netanyahu-Hussein summit in Washington as a "crisis management conference. ... I think Clinton will now work toward holding a conflict resolution conference."

BILL HUTMAN

# MKs visit Palestinian Council

SIXTEEN MKs traveled to Ramallah yesterday to meet with members of the Palestinian Legislative Council as part of an initiative by MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) to form an inter-parliamentary friendship council between the Knesset and the council.

The MKs, including Maxim Levy and Yehuda Lankri (both Likud-Gesher), were warmly received by PA Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) and applauded when they sat in on a council meeting.

Zucker explained that he envisages the friendship association as an additional means of maintain-

ing a relationship at less than government level. Levy said such meetings could only help the peace process and stressed that Geshet is committed to the Oslo accords.

Legislator Haider Abdel-Shaffi complained that "justice will not be done until the government recognizes [Palestinian] rights. The Israeli government denies their rights to their land."

MK Haim Oron (Meretz) said that from his party's point of view, the agreements' goal is to create two states.

Lankri described the meeting as "a clear expression of the recogni-

tion of reciprocity which is the basis for peace." He called on the ordinary people - and not just leaders - to recognize the peace and said that any government in Israel would be committed to continuing the process.

Both parties decided to elect a subcommittee to arrange further meetings on specific issues, including meetings with ministers. The venue will alternate between the autonomous areas and Israel.

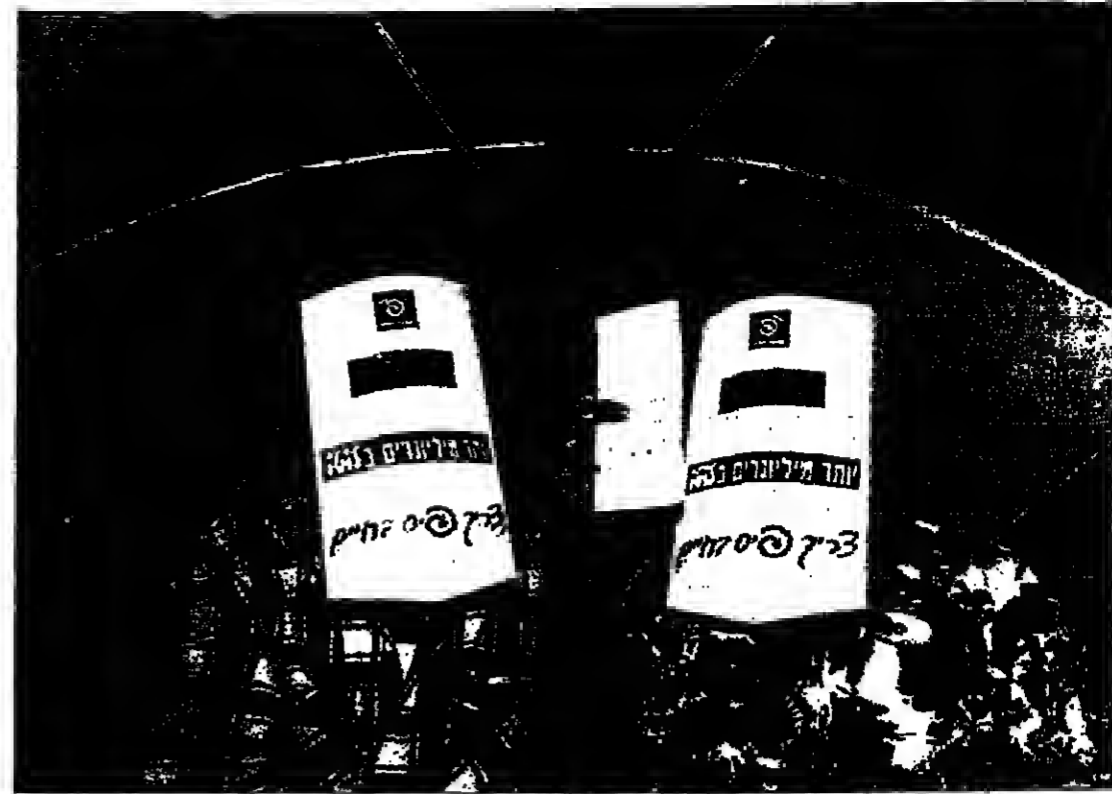
Both Zucker and Abu Ala complained that Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) refuses to recognize the group as an inter-parliamentary friendship association.

Knesset Spokesman Yair Amikam answered a query by Zucker on the subject on Tuesday, saying the matter had been referred to the Foreign Ministry.

"The Knesset only maintains interparliamentary friendship associations with sovereign states with parliaments. The Palestinian Authority has not been recognized as an independent sovereign state - and therefore the legislative council is not recognized as a parliament," he said.

"Until the government recognizes the council, it will not be recognizing the accords," Abu Ala said. He said he is not optimistic about the future "because all the settlements still exist."

LIAT COLLINS



A Lotto winner and his brother pose at the Mifal Hapayis building in Tel Aviv, where they went to pick up a check for the NIS 3.5 million he won in Tuesday's drawing.

# Kiryat Arba, Hebron leaders say they would meet Natshe

HERB KEINON

KIRYAT Arba and Hebron settlement leaders both voiced a willingness yesterday to meet with Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe to discuss "municipal matters." If such a meeting did materialize, it would be the first such meeting between Natshe and the settlers since he was reappointed Hebron mayor two years ago.

Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnoo said he would be willing to talk with Natshe if someone else initiates the meeting.

Arnoo said he would not initiate a meeting, because Natshe is "a member of a terrorist organization," and was "involved in the murder of Aharon Gross" in 1983. Natshe was deposed as Hebron mayor in 1983 after Gross was killed and convicted of incitement.

Arnoo said an attempt by members of the Temporary International Force in Hebron to bring the two sides to a meeting over a year ago did not work because Natshe refused to meet with settlers.

Natshe could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Arnoo's comments came after Labor MK Efraim Sneh yesterday offered to mediate a dialogue between Kiryat Arba Local Council leader Zvi Katzover and Natshe. Katzover said he would be willing to meet with the Hebron mayor, but also

only about municipal matters.

During Sneh's meeting with Katzover, which a Kiryat Arba official said was part of Sneh's campaign for Labor leadership, he told Katzover that there is a need to rein in both the Jewish and Moslem extremists in the area.

"The true extremists are Hamas," Katzover said. "That is where someone needs to assert control."

Unlike the Kiryat Arba leadership, the heads of the Hebron settlement would not meet with Soeh, claiming that he "hates" the settlers there and wants to see the settlement removed.

"After we screened a film we made on Hebron, showing what is likely to happen here if the IDF redeploys, Soeh went on Educational Television and said we are dangerous people who have come only to provoke and harm the Arabs," Arnoo said. "He hates us and wants to see the settlement uprooted. He said we are dangerous and twisted. It is beneath our dignity to meet with him until he apologizes."

In a related development, Peace Now - for the second time in a week - charged that a new settlement has been created, this time about a kilometer outside Yatir, in the south Hebron Hills.

But Ron Shechner, head of the

Hebron Hills Regional Council, said that what Peace Now is calling a settlement is actually four mobile homes, occupied by two families, put up near Yatir to keep Palestinians from encroaching on state land meant for grazing.

Shechner said that the settlers asked permission to erect the mobile homes on the site about 18 months ago, under the previous government, but "it wasn't approved for political reasons. To my pleasure, a couple weeks after the formation of the new government, we got the permission, and we established the site."

Late last week Peace Now said it had "discovered" a new settlement just east of Itamar, which settlers also said was just a couple of mobile homes put up several months ago on land belonging to Itamar.

Peace Now issued a statement saying that putting up the mobile homes at Yatir runs contrary to the government's stated policy not to create any new settlements.

"It is better for you [the government] to immediately take away these mobile homes, and concentrate on reaching an accord on Hebron," the statement reads.

If this is not done, Peace Now warns, new settlements will "sprout up like mushrooms after the rain."

# Rajoub bodyguard charged in Jerusalem resident's kidnapping

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub last night called on Israel to immediately release his chief bodyguard, Anwar Awad, who was charged earlier in the day with kidnapping a Palestinian resident in eastern Jerusalem in July.

"Anwar was not involved in this," Rajoub said. He said he wanted to study the charge sheet before commenting further.

Sources close to Rajoub said the Preventive Security chief was furious about the arrest and indictment of Awad. Rajoub believed that through his connections in the General Security Service, Awad, who was arrested last Thursday, would be freed yesterday, the sources said.

Instead, the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office filed charges against Awad, for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of Abed Salem Hirbawi, who the Palestinian Authority tried to

pressure into dropping a property claim against the Coptic Church.

Awad and several other Preventive Security agents broke into Hirbawi's home in the A-Ram just after midnight on July 20, and at gunpoint forced Hirbawi to accompany them to their headquarters in Ramallah, according to the charge sheet.

Hirbawi was released, after agreeing to drop his claim against the Coptic Church. He later reneged on his promise, and is listed one of the witnesses who will testify against Awad.

The District Attorney's Office asked that Awad be held for the entire trial, on grounds that he was likely to flee to Ramallah if released. Awad's attorney, Nacla Attiah, said she would try to secure Awad's immediate release at a hearing today.

Awad is also charged with carrying an unlicensed weapon.

# PA says it won't try to control Wakf

BILL HUTMAN

THE Palestinian Authority sent Jordan a clear message that it is backing off from its push to take control of the Wakf, during meetings this week in Amman between PA and Jordanian officials on the future of the Moslem religious trust that is based at the Temple Mount.

Senior PA sources said the meetings have relieved tensions, which have intensified in recent weeks, between Jordan and the PA over the running of the Wakf. The two sides agreed in principle to keep intact the present status quo on the mount, the sources said.

"[PA Chairman Yasser] Arafat has decided that it would be short-

sighted to take any major steps with the Wakf now, and that it would only hurt relations with Jordan," a senior PA source said.

"We believe at this time we must keep on good terms with Jordan, and that it is too early, before the start of final state talks, to be pushing ahead on the Wakf issue," the source said.

Palestinian and PA Wakf officials held talks in Amman for three days, starting Sunday. Tuesday night, senior Arafat advisor Abu Mazen went to Amman to meet with Jordanian leaders, as part of the PA's effort to strengthen relations with Jordan, PA sources said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Pedestrian killed in Tel Aviv**  
Ami Ben-Artzi, 73, of Tel Aviv, was killed yesterday morning when he was hit by a car as he crossed the Ayalon Highway, near the exit to Rokah Boulevard.

**Two people killed in a head-on collision between the Tzofim and Alfei Menashe junctions late Tuesday night were identified yesterday as Ma'ayan Eliezer, 18, of Alfei Menashe, and Ephraim Bleifeld, 39, of Kedumim. Bleifeld's wife and Eliezer's boyfriend were seriously injured in the crash, while another passenger in Bleifeld's car was lightly hurt.**  
Eliezer apparently hit a donkey carcass that was on the side of the road, and ricocheted into the opposite lane, where she hit Bleifeld head on.

**Man killed in home by gunman**  
A Yavne man was shot in the head and fatally wounded at dawn yesterday by an unidentified assailant, who entered his home via a window and then escaped. The man, who police said had a criminal background, died yesterday afternoon at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital.

**Homeless man burned to death**  
A 45-year-old homeless man burned to death when his mattress caught fire early yesterday morning in Kfar Givrol, near Rehovot. The man had apparently been drinking and caused the fire when he dropped a lit cigarette on the mattress.

**Worker falls to death at building site**  
A 26-year-old worker was killed yesterday afternoon at a construction site on the coast of Givat Olga when he fell from the seventh floor of the building. The worker, who had been trying to move from one porch to another when he lost his balance, was declared dead at the site. Police and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry are investigating.

**Skeleton found in Haifa**  
A human skeleton was found in a wadi in Haifa yesterday morning. Police are attempting to identify it.

**Police seek homeowner about arms cache**  
Judea and Samaria police were on a manhunt yesterday for the Palestinian owner of the home in which police discovered an arms cache on Tuesday night, the police spokesman said.

A Karl Gustav submachine gun, rifle, 9 mm. pistol, hand grenade, hundreds of bullets and other military equipment were discovered in the raid. The owner's wife, the only person in the home, was detained briefly for questioning and released, the spokesman said.

Investigators were unsure whether the weapons were being held in the home, located in Jabal Julis just outside Kiryat Arba, for criminal or for terror purposes, the spokesman said. *Bill Hutman*

# Partial closure on Lebanese border part of security measures

SECURITY measures taken to thwart a possible terror attack have also affected the Lebanese border, where a partial closure has been in effect since Sunday.

According to reports from Lebanon, it is the first time that restrictions of this kind have been placed on residents of the security zone coming to work in Israel.

Usually, those residents of the zone with relatives in the South Lebanese Army are allowed to work here. *David Rudge*

# Kiev Jews reborn, as new community center opens

MARILYN HENRY  
KIEV, Ukraine

THE Jewish community of Kiev proudly proclaimed its rebirth Monday, when officials cut the red ribbon of a new welfare center, the first significant communal building to be opened in decades.

"This home is for the Jews, and now any Jew has a place to turn," said Rabbi Ya'akov Bleich, the chief rabbi of Kiev and Ukraine. "It was built for the elderly and will become a center for all Jews."

The center, called Hesed Avot, will provide an extensive array of social services for the elderly, including a hot-meal program that will feed hundreds a day, and medical programs, including medical equipment and consultations with volunteer doctors and pharmacists. The center also provides meals-on-wheels and arranges for home care for the housebound.

It houses a library, a lecture hall, and a social center, designed to ease the social isolation of the elderly in this capital with an estimated 100,000 Jews. More than one-third of those are elderly, and are overwhelmingly Holocaust survivors.

The Kiev center was organized by the Joint Distribution Committee, is run by a local board, and was underwritten by the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The Claims Conference financed the project with funds obtained from the sale of heirless Jewish property in the former East Germany.

"These are the forgotten survivors of the entire Shoah," Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference, said of the Jews of the former Soviet Union.

"We have a holy responsibility to use the money from people who did not survive for the benefit of those who did."

Hesed Avot sits in the square, surrounded by drab high-rises, from which neighbors stared from their windows as hundreds of men in frayed caps and women with tattered shopping bags crammed into the lobby and spilled onto the driveway of the three-story building.

# Kahalani defends security measures

LIAT COLLINS

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the Knesset yesterday that had the government not taken the security steps it took on Sunday, "We would have been national criminals."

Kahalani was answering a motion to the agenda by MK Haim Ramon (Labor), who complained that the measures had brought the country to a halt.

"The information we had - some of it still in effect - was too precise and too founded [to ignore]. The threat on Saturday, when we prepared for Sunday, was more than concrete. We had very, very clear signs in the field that the process of carrying out

an attack had begun ... and we wanted to halt it. I don't think anyone on the team which met to discuss the issue wants or wanted to paralyze the country," Kahalani said.

He stressed that the decision to erect the roadblocks had stemmed from "very clear, very defined and very precise information."

Kahalani said he also had been disturbed to see the traffic jams, but he would do the same again if he were to receive similar information in the future. He added, however, "The government will do everything to ensure the routine of life in Israel is not ruled by fear and terror."

# DEMOCRATS

(Continued from Page 1)  
A bank of television cameras faced a podium on a stage topped with an AMERICA WON '96 banner, even though Clinton was taking in the returns halfway across the country in Arkansas and no party VIPs were on hand to address the faithful.

Call it youthful enthusiasm at the promise of Clinton's off-proclaimed "bridge to the 21st century." Call it relief after working on the campaign for long hours at little or no pay for some six months. Call it a major meat market.

From one end of the sweaty floor to the other, people guzzled from \$4 bottles of beer and chomped on cheap victory cigars that threatened to burn both the body and clothing of passersby. They chanted in groups and one-on-one. They consumed plates of free chips, pretzels and hot dogs.

In short, the Democratic National Committee event was a glorified frat party.

"We did it," exclaimed David

Meyers, 25, as he embraced fellow campaign volunteer Molly O'Neill, 23.

"I think it's amazing to see how energized they are," said O'Neill, surveying the crowd in the foyer. "From what I read, I would think people 20 to 25 really don't care."

At 11:15 cheers arose again: People held aloft the first edition of yesterday's *Washington Post* proclaiming "Clinton Wins Second Term." More deafening cheers 10 minutes later: Republican challenger Robert Dole was on-screen conceding defeat. "Shih" whooped through the vast hall as all strained to hear. When Dole said, "I was thinking in the elevator coming down tomorrow will be the first day I won't have anything to do," the crowd erupted in a roar.

And then, just minutes before midnight, ecstasy. Strolling down a red carpet onto the balcony of the Old State House in Little Rock was the sitting and future president.

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שרות נשים סוציאליות

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together with  
The Management and Staff of  
Lichtenstaedter Hospital  
mourn the passing of

**IRMA ULLMANN**  
(nee Lichtenstaedter)

And send sincere condolences to her family

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Zahava and Gideon Hillel receive a check from Moshe Nussbaum, head of the Ramle branch of the National Insurance Institute, at Assaf Harofeh Hospital yesterday, a week after Zahava gave birth to quadruplets - two boys and two girls.

# MKs shout and laugh at Kopatch testimony

IT was an affair good for both a laugh and a shout of anger, and it raised both responses from the Knesset Education Committee yesterday. Gil Kopatch's parody of the Torah portion of the week broadcast on Channel 1 on Friday night was discussed by the committee in a special early morning meeting yesterday.

Kopatch and scriptwriter Shlomo Moscovitz also were present. Rina Shapira, chairwoman of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's Executive Committee, was upset by the raised voices at the session and rejected claims that there is a cultural war being carried out between the religious and secular.

"The personal attacks on the presenter and on the television and its workers made me cross," she said. "I believe this executive unequivocally gives rights of expression to all groups." MK Shlomo Benizri (Shas) spoke emotionally of Kopatch's attack on the forefathers. "There are things Gil can say which I can't, and he says them in God's name and in the name of Maimonides and Rashi. I have never seen a Rashi commentary which says, like [Kopatch] did, forgive me: 'With his penis hanging out.' These are your inventions and they hurt all the People of Israel," Benizri said.

### LIAT COLLINS

He repeated his barely hidden threat that he would ask the Knesset Finance Committee, chaired by United Torah Judaism's Avraham Ravitz, to cut funds to the IBA if the spot were not stopped.

Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman said the committee must ensure the continued independence of the IBA.

"It's impossible for the IBA to be sold on just one perspective. What you did yesterday was unprecedented. It was a lynch," he said.

Zissman also criticized the meeting between the religious MKs and Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office who is also responsible for the IBA. "Lieberman can't dictate to us," Zissman said.

Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum, a well-known satirist, gave the committee a lesson on humor, parody and pluralism, and was heckled throughout it.

"You think you have a monopoly on the portion of week and the secular have nothing to do with it. But you are wrong," he said. "Secular spirit and secular minds also deal with the Torah."

MK Shmuel Halpern (UTJ) said a larger outcry would have broken

out had a parody like Kopatch's been made on Jesus or Mohammed.

MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) supported the program, saying: "There are not two Jewish Peoples, only one. Don't do this terrible thing to me. Don't create a chasm between us."

Kopatch himself won a few laughs and some empathy in his address, in which he said: "I don't want to speak about the Koran and the New Testament because I'm a Jew, a believing Jew. Torah is precious to me. We thought, although it didn't turn out that way, that this would bridge the terrible gap between secular and religious."

"I'm not Rashi or a Torah commentator, I'm just an artist. I speak in such light tones because that's the language my audience speaks. What language could I use? Aramaic or Yiddish? They don't speak that."

He invited Benizri to join the spot's writing team and said he is open to more ideas.

Benizri answered the challenge, saying he would join if the spot were moved to a weekday. He also noted he had invited Kopatch to his yeshiva for Shabbat.

Speaking on the subject in the plenum later, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "If the Lord of the Universe needs Benizri and Lieberman to defend him, it's a sign that He's in trouble."

# Histadrut calls total strike of Haifa Chemicals

THE situation at the Haifa Chemicals plant worsened yesterday as the Histadrut called a general strike of the firm's entire 500-member workforce.

Production at the factory - the world's biggest producer of potassium nitrate, which is used as a fertilizer in agriculture - has been at a standstill for over a week.

The management shut down all production units on October 29 and sent home 350 workers because of ongoing employee sanctions. The management claimed the sanctions had completely disrupted the manufacturing process.

Workers imposed sanctions following what they described as the management's intransigence in negotiations over a new collective labor agreement.

The first signs of trouble were in September, when the management gave the legally required notice of its intention to annul the existing labor accord, which expires at the

end of December, in order to institute sweeping changes.

The proposed changes include cutting the labor force by over 100 and other efficiency measures designed to reduce overheads and enable the firm to compete profitably in overseas markets.

Management blamed the situation on rising costs of raw materials and the fierce competition, primarily from Chile, which is undercutting Haifa Chemicals' prices because of its cheaper labor costs.

Workers, however, with the full backing of the Histadrut, saw the management's moves as an attempt to break the collective agreement and introduce individual contracts.

Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch, accused the management of using pressure tactics on the workers, including sending out dismissal notices to 124 employees

last month and shutting down the production units.

He stressed that the Histadrut and the workers would fight tooth-and-nail to protect the collective labor agreement framework and oppose any attempts to bring in personal contracts.

Zaltz said the general strike would continue until management agrees to resume "proper and serious negotiations" on the basis of a collective agreement.

The company has denied trying to implement personal contracts, insisting that the changes it is demanding must be implemented to ensure the firm's survival.

The disruptions and subsequent closure of the factory's production units already have cost the company some \$5 million.

A spokesman for the firm stressed, however, that steps had been taken to increase production at the company's sister factory in the US in order to meet clients' orders.

### DAVID RUDGE

### RAINE MARCUS

# Tel Aviv journalists decry Lieberman's summons of IBA head

THE Tel Aviv branch of the National Federation of Israel Journalists yesterday sent an urgent letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemning his office's involvement in the controversy over Gil Kopatch's Friday night spot on the Torah portion of the week, and decrying any attempt to influence the content of Channel 1's programming.

The letter - blasted Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman for summoning Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general

Mordechai Kirschenbaum for a meeting to discuss the matter.

"We cannot enter into the main issue of whether Kopatch's program hurts the feelings of certain sectors of the population," branch chairman and Press Council member Aryc Avneri said. "We can only focus on the issue of freedom of speech and if this matter is simply a continuation of general policies which have begun to take root during these last few months."

Although Netanyahu bears ministerial responsibility for the IBA, added Avneri, "the fact that Lieberman has summoned Kirschenbaum for a meeting to discuss this matter is not the way to do things."

"We will now wait for an independent legal examination to check if the program is hurting certain sectors' sensitivities and if a decision is reached that it does not, we will fight to keep the show on the air," said Avneri.

A clause in the IBA regulations bans the authority from broadcasting programs which might offend sectors in the population.

to reporters an outline of his ministry's budget demands, including solving employment problems; establishing hostels and housing grants; and helping integration by, among other things, improving the image of immigrants.

Edelstein is seeking aid through international foundations for immigrant sportspeople. He noted that in 1992, 26 immigrants participated in the Olympic Games but the number had dropped to just one in 1996. He said most had left their sports because of lack of financial support.

MK Zvi Weinstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya) met with Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai to discuss ways of integrating immigrants into hi-tech industries. He complained that computer programmers from India had been brought to Israel to work and said many new immigrants could be retained for such jobs.

### KNESSET BRIEFS

#### Labor files no-confidence motion

The Labor faction filed another no-confidence motion yesterday over "the deterioration in the security situation and the public's fears." Faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen said the government's failure to continue the peace process and its "pandering to right-wing extremists increase the risks of a terror attack, which inflicts a feeling of prolonged fear and trepidation on the public."

#### Bill to ban describing suspects

The Knesset yesterday passed the preliminary reading of a bill by MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism). The bill would ban the publication of a criminal suspect's religion, communal affiliation and ethnic origin unless these bore a direct relation to the crime. The bill passed 15 to 1, with 3 abstentions. Gafni said recent publications stating suspect's personal affiliations have cast a shadow on entire, innocent communities.

#### Meretz bill would abolish Chief Rabbinate

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) submitted a bill yesterday which would abolish the Chief Rabbinate. He said there should be a clear separation between the state and religion. Religious services to the public could be provided by the local authorities and the Religious Affairs Ministry, he said.

#### House holds memorial service for Col. Mari

A memorial service for Col. Nabilh Mari, who was killed in the recent rioting, was held in the Knesset yesterday. Relatives and members of the Druse community met with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon in his office, at the initiative of Knesset Interior Committee Chairman Saïlah Tarif (Labor).

"The Oslo accord was the beginning of the end of Zionism and the ceding of rights to the land of Israel," Bar-Ilan University philosophy professor Yosef Ben Shlomo said. Ben Shlomo said that withdrawing from places such as Hebron, Beit El, Shiloh and Bethlehem would pose an educational conflict, by putting areas which are part of Jewish heritage outside of Israel.

# Water level still low in Lake Kinneret

### DAVID RUDGE

THE recent rainfall has had virtually no effect on the water level in Lake Kinneret, which is at a lower point than it was at this time last year and is continuing to drop.

Mekorot officials said the rain at the end of last month and in the past two days had helped stabilize the decline, but a lot more precipitation would be needed before the level begins to rise significantly.

The level of water in the lake is less than 1.50 meters from the minimum mark of 213 meters below sea level, they said. The water mark yesterday stood at 211.52 meters - 55 centimeters below what it was at the same time last year and over a meter less than two years ago.

The officials noted that one centimeter in the level of the lake is equivalent to 1.7 million cubic meters of water.

Mekorot is continuing to pump from the Kinneret into the National Water Carrier at the rate of around one million cubic meters a day.

The officials said this would continue until the middle of next month, when water experts would meet to decide on management of the nation's water resources in light of the winter forecast.

"In the meantime we just have to hope and pray for a lot of rain this winter," a Mekorot official said yesterday.

The meteorological forecast, however, is for the scattered showers of the past two days to dry out and be replaced by dry and warmer weather through to the weekend.

# Right-wing think tank opens

### GREER FAY CASHMAN

OPTIONS for peace and war, the legitimacy of the Oslo accords, strategic depth in an era of peace and systematic disinformation about Israel's relations with the US were the key issues discussed on Tuesday at the inaugural conference of the Center for Policy Research, a right-wing think tank.

Headquartered at the Academic College of Judea and Samaria's Ariel campus, the center is funded by cruise ship tycoon Ted Arison and draws its intellectual power from Professors for a Strong Israel.

Based on similar think tanks operating in Britain, France and the US, the center will recommend long-term political strategies to the government, said Arison, who called on members of the business community to give it their financial support.

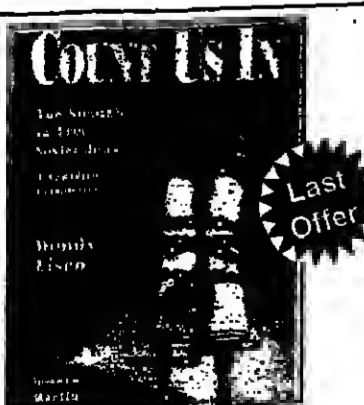
Former foreign minister Moshe Arens, who is chairman of the college's board of governors, said he is confident the Center for Policy Research will provide approaches to many of the country's problems.

"Some of the think tanks established in Israel in recent years had a left-wing bias which prevented them from reaching correct decisions."

The establishment of the center fulfilled "a most urgent need," deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said, claiming that there is a feeling among the public that all academics have a left-wing orientation.

Peled stressed the need for the Right to prepare itself in the period remaining before the next elections so that it will retain power.

Most speakers voiced opposition to the Oslo accords.



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# Clinton cabinet to get makeover

DEFENSE Secretary William Perry, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor have told President Clinton that they will resign, administration and military officials said yesterday, leaving the re-elected president with vacancies in two of the Cabinet's most prestigious posts.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary was reportedly also resigning, sources said.

Christopher informed Clinton of his decision Tuesday night in Little Rock, Arkansas, as election returns were showing the president had won a second term. The 71-year-old Christopher's four years as secretary of state have been dominated by fighting in Bosnia and efforts to forge peace in the Middle East, and a preference for low-key persuasion.

Kantor also told President Clinton he intends to "return to private life," an official said yesterday.

Word of the resignations came from officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The resignations were expected to part of up to six Cabinet changes, aides said, as Clinton prepares his team for a second White House term.

Candidates to replace Christopher include former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, United Nations Ambassador Madeleine Albright, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell — now a Clinton envoy to Ireland — and

## RON FOURNIER LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, a longtime Clinton friend. Senior aides said the president might turn to retired Gen. Colin Powell or Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana — both Republicans — in a show of bipartisanship.

CIA Director John Deutch is a top candidate to replace Perry.

Transportation Secretary Federico Pena has a shaky hold on his seat at the cabinet table, but could still stay, the sources said.



Many at the highest levels of the White House would like Janet Reno to leave, but it would be difficult to fire the popular attorney general, they said.

Based on interviews with a half-dozen administration officials, here's a look at how the cabinet is shaking out:

\* Christopher tried to leave the cabinet once before but was talked out of it. Clinton is expected to offer no objections this time.

\* Perry, 67, reluctant to take the job three years ago, wants out.

\* Kantor had served as a main trouble-shooter and dealmaker for the administration in the area of trade, first as US trade representative and since April as Commerce secretary.

\* O'Leary was the first woman to head the Energy Department, often a bastion for military men. She became an influential member of the cabinet early in the administration and was credited with persuading Clinton to end testing of nuclear weapons.

Her influence waned after a series of trade missions that Republican critics in Congress characterized as lavish wasting of taxpayer money.

\* Reno said a few weeks ago she wants to stay. Her doctors say her mild case of Parkinson's disease is not an obstacle.

\* Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros is a favorite of Clinton's. But he may depart over personal financial problems related to an independent counsel's investigation. The prosecutor is examining a possible conspiracy to conceal from the FBI details of Cisneros' payments to a former mistress. (AP)



A woman sells papers in Mexico City announcing Bill Clinton's victory in the US presidential elections. (AP)

# Republicans keep grip on US Congress

WILLIAM SCALLY  
WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS yesterday hailed their victories to keep control of the Senate and House of Representatives despite President Bill Clinton's decisive re-election win in Tuesday's US elections.

It was the first time Republicans had won both houses of Congress for two consecutive elections in 68 years. They won both chambers in 1994 for the first time in 40 years.

In the Senate, Republicans increased their current 53-47 margin by at least one by winning open seats previously held by Democrats in Alabama, Nebraska and Clinton's home state of Arkansas, where the party grabbed a Senate seat for the first time since the post-Civil War era.

Democrats gained one Republican seat in South Dakota where three-term Sen. Larry Pressler, who chairs the Commerce committee, was defeated by Democratic Representative Tim Johnson.

Only the contest in Oregon to replace retiring Republican Mark Hatfield remained undecided among 34 Senate races. Republican Gordon Smith was leading Democrat Tom Bruggere but the result may not be known for several days until hundreds of thousands of absentee ballots are counted.

"I'm quite pleased with the results in the Senate," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican, said.

In the House, with about a dozen races undecided, Republicans projected a loss of at least nine seats from their current 235-197 edge with one independent and two vacancies. Three races in Texas face runoffs in December.

"We cemented our historic gains and laid the foundation for a long-term Republican majority in the House," Republican Congressional Campaign Chairman Bill Paxton told reporters.

All but about 13 of the 73 Republican House freshmen who swept the party to victory two years ago were re-elected as were most senior incumbents in both parties.

The new congressional lineup was expected to be a force for compromise with neither Clinton nor the Republicans able to push through controversial legislation.

Both sides overreached in the last Congress — Clinton with his failed healthcare reform plan and the Republicans with a budget plan that led to shutdown of the government.

Clinton said American voters

had sent both parties a message to work together. "When we join our hands... America always wins," he said.

Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich also sounded conciliatory, saying, "I believe that we have an obligation frankly to reach out to the newly re-elected president who after all campaigned on a balanced budget and targeted tax cuts and being against drugs and being for doing virtually all the things we said we were for."

In the Arkansas Senate race, Republican Tim Hutchinson defeated Democrat Winston Bryant for the open seat held by retiring Sen. David Pryor.

In Alabama, Republican Jeff Sessions defeated Democrat Roger Bedford to replace retiring Democrat Howell Heflin, and in Nebraska, Republican Chuck Hagel beat Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson for the seat of retiring Democrat James Exon.

Democrats won hard-fought races to retain seats in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia and Illinois. Republicans kept two open seats in Kansas, vacated by presidential candidate Bob Dole and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, and won tough races to hold Senate seats in North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Maine, Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho.

Voters re-elected two of the Senate's most prominent conservatives — Jesse Helms of North Carolina and 93-year-old Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who aims to celebrate his 100th birthday as a senator in six years.

Thurmond, who will be 94 on December 5, fended off a challenge by Democrat Elliott Close, to head into his eighth six-year term. Helms defeated the black former mayor of Charlotte, Harvey Gant, in a replay of their contest six years ago.

Their race was the most expensive Senate contest, according to the watchdog group Common Cause. Helms spent more than \$19 million and Gant more than \$6 million.

In Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John Kerry won a third term in a high-profile race with popular Gov. William Weld. In Illinois, Representative Richard Durbin defeated Republican Al Salvi, winning the open seat vacated by Democrat Paul Simon.

In Georgia, triple amputee Max Cleland, former head of the Veterans Administration, held the Senate seat vacated by fellow Democrat Sam Nunn, defeating Republican Guy Millner. (Reuters)

# Voters say no to affirmative action, sugar taxes, yes to marijuana

NEW YORK (AP) — Two years ago, California shook up the nation, and parts of the world, with a vote targeting illegal immigrants. This election, it tackled another volatile issue, striking down preferences to minorities and women in public jobs and education.

Once again, the tremors have begun.

Tuesday's ballots were packed with hundreds of issues, including 90 initiatives created by citizen petition drives. Those included efforts to give parents protected rights over their children, tax sugar growers to clean up the environment and give animals more rights in hunting.

But the single item that captured the national imagination was California's plan to dismantle most of its affirmative action programs.

Voters in the nation's most populous state overwhelmingly approved Proposition 209, which bans racial and sex preferences in public hiring, contracting and college enrollments. With 92 percent of precincts reporting, the measure was endorsed 55 percent to 45 percent.

But rather than quashing debate, the vote seems only to set the stage for legal challenges.

"We're determined to have the last word on the issue," said Kathy Spillar, Southern California campaign coordinator for Stop Prop 209. "No matter what happens, this is only the beginning of what we believe will be a nationwide battle."

The divisions echoed the acrimony over 1994's Proposition 187, a measure intended to cut off many state services to illegal aliens, most of whom are Mexican and Asian. It passed easily two years ago — and promptly ended up in court, with a federal judge last year striking down parts as unconstitutional.

In another proposal, California joined Arizona in legalizing marijuana for medical purposes. The impact, however, is uncertain since federal law prohibits anyone from using, growing or selling marijuana.

An array of environmental issues also went to the voters, and businesses scored victories on two of them.

Florida's sugar growers, under attack for polluting the majestic Everglades with fertilizer runoff, spent big and beat off a proposed penny-per-pound tax that would have helped clean up the fabled "River of Grass."

And in Maine, a proposed ban on clearcutting on 10 million acres (four million hectares) of the state's northern forests failed after the most expensive referendum in state history. Among the opponents were the paper industry — which spent more than \$5 million to defeat it — and Gov. Angus King, who warned the plan could cost more than 15,000 jobs.

"The gun that has been pointed at the head of the Maine economy is now uncocked, unloaded and off the table," King said.

In another hotly debated environmental issue, Idaho voters upheld a plan that allows 110 tons (100 metric tons) of highly radioactive waste to be dumped in the state over 40 years. In exchange, the plan calls for the eventual removal of all the hazardous material.

Health and family matters were also decided in some states.

Oregon voters raised the state cigarette tax by 30 cents a pack, to 68 cents, to help fund health care for poor people. They also rejected limitations on how health maintenance organizations reimburse doctors for patient care.

In Colorado, a measure that would have put a guarantee in the state constitution that parents had ultimate rights in matters of educating and disciplining their children failed with voters. Opponents had argued it would make it tougher to prosecute child abuse and prompt legal fights over school curriculum.

Voters also were divided over hunting restrictions.

Some gambling opponents also found reason to celebrate.

In Louisiana, a state that has become a gambler's mecca even as scandals have riddled the industry, voters had the option of kicking out gambling on a local basis.

They split their decision: six districts with riverboat gambling kept it, 23 decided to allow it and 14 voted to keep it out; 30 districts held on to video poker and 34 rejected it.

Gambling also suffered defeats in Nebraska, Ohio, Colorado and Arkansas although Arizona approved expanding the industry in Indian casinos.

But in Michigan, a statewide measure to allow casino gambling in Detroit passed.

Clinton said American voters

## Militants kill 31 civilians in Algerian village massacre

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — An armed group massacred 31 civilians in a village south of the capital overnight, state TV reported yesterday, in the worst of a series of killings before a disputed constitutional referendum.

The attackers descended on Sidi Kebir, near the mountain town of Blida 50 kms south of Algiers. ENTV reported, without giving further details.

The attack was unclaimed, but suspicion fell on Moslem militants fighting a 4 1/2-year-old insurgency against the government, which canceled January 1992 parliamentary runoff elections the Islamic Salvation Front was expected to win. More than 60,000 people have died.

No details were immediately available on the Sidi Kebir massacre. France Info radio in Paris quoted a few rare witnesses as saying gunmen encircled the area before moving in.

The village sits in the foothills of the Chrea mountains, a ski resort area which has become a hideout for extremists.

The attack came after reports

that 10 women and three children had their throats slashed early Sunday in the village of Douaouda, about 30 kilometers west of Algiers. Newspapers in Algiers said Tuesday that a band of some 20 men carried out the slaughter, which began with a hand grenade attack on the victims' home.

The government had no comment on those reports.

The latest attack was condemned by the Interior Ministry, the television said. It was the first time the government reported a massacre since a new wave of violence that began in early October, in which about 200 people have died, according to unofficial reports.

The government of President Liamine Zeroual has sought to show it is quelling the violence ahead of the November 28 referendum that would permanently outlaw parties based on religion or language. The Salvation Front has been banned since 1992.

Leading opposition parties, supporting a political solution to the insurgency, are calling for a boycott.

## Recuperating Yeltsin reclaims presidential powers

CANDICE HUGHES  
MOSCOW

JUST a day after his quintuple bypass, Boris Yeltsin reclaimed the presidential powers he had relinquished for the operation and was pressing his doctors to move him out intensive care.

"I think he's out of the woods," American heart surgeon Michael DeBakey said after seeing the 65-year-old president yesterday morning.

Kremlin doctors agreed with their high-profile consultant. They took Yeltsin off the respirator yesterday and were considering moving him out of the Moscow Cardiological Clinic Thursday to the nearby Kremlin hospital, which has suites of offices and a homier atmosphere.

DeBakey said Yeltsin wouldn't have served out the second term he fought for so tenaciously this summer without the operation.

"He couldn't have carried on much longer," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

When DeBakey, a consultant on the case, first examined the president in September, "he was incapacitated, considerably incapacitated."

Now, he said, "I'd expect for him to carry out his term perfectly normally."

The joke making the rounds in

the Russian capital was that Yeltsin's first words after coming out of the anesthesia were, "Give me a pen" — a sly reference to the presidential decrees through which he rules.

The story is apocryphal. But at 6 a.m. yesterday, shortly after he was taken off the respirator, that's exactly what happened. Yeltsin signed a decree taking back the powers he has guarded so jealously against a host of challengers.

"The president's strong will is well-known," a smiling presidential spokesman, Sergei Yastrzembsky, said.

Yeltsin also met with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin yesterday and requested a report on the 24 hours he was out of commission, which included a nationwide protest Tuesday over unpaid wages.

His illness has kept Russia in limbo for months.

Yeltsin has spent more hours at the Kremlin since winning a second term in July over Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov. Kremlin squabbling has erupted into wild charges and counter-charges of alleged coup plots,

multimillion-dollar slush funds, embezzlement, blackmail and more.

The prime minister, who underwent bypass surgery himself eight years ago, said he was amazed that Yeltsin was bouncing back so fast from surgery. Chernomyrdin said he urged him to take it easy for a while.

"We won't overload him," an upbeat Chernomyrdin said. "We'll try to take as much of the burden off him as possible."

The Kremlin tried to hide just how sick the president was. But DeBakey said that by September "just working two or three hours a day at the hospital was beginning to exhaust him."

DeBakey said the 65-year-old president's heart was functioning at just 20 percent of normal then and at only 40 percent when he went into surgery. Now, after five bypass grafts, it's at 100 percent, he said.

Like other heart patients, the president will have to cut back on fatty foods and restrain his famous fondness for drink, DeBakey said.

"The use of alcohol in social functions is quite all right. It's the habitual, excessive use that must be avoided," he said. "And the president understands that." (AP)

## Pakistan PM Bhutto slams president, vows to fight her dismissal

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) — Pakistan's ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto vowed yesterday to fight her dismissal and the dissolution of parliament by President Farooq Leghari in court.

"We expect the court to restore the [National] Assembly within a month," she told a packed news conference at her first public appearance since Leghari sacked her early on Tuesday.

"I have been elected as prime minister and I'll be prime minister again," she said.

Bhutto described the president's charges as "malicious, baseless and fabricated," and called on him to resign if he wanted to prove he had not acted out of a "lust for power."

"I will go to the court expecting justice," she said, noting that the Supreme Court had reinstated the government of her main political opponent Nawaz Sharif after it had been dismissed by then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan in 1993.

Bhutto said she did not know the whereabouts of her husband, former investment minister Asif Ali Zardari, who was detained on Tuesday, and accused Leghari of arranging his abduction.

"If by nine o'clock tonight my lawyer has not been allowed to see my husband... I'm going to file an FIR (first information report) against Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari for the kidnapping of my husband," said Bhutto, 43-year-old mother of three.

Pakistan's new caretaker government led by Meraj Khalid said it had lifted curbs on Bhutto's movements, but Zardari was still in protective custody for reasons it did not fully explain.

Information Minister Ishaq Haqqani told a news conference that Bhutto, who was confined by police to her official residence after being sacked on Tuesday, "was free to carry out political activities and go wherever she likes."

## Nazi-seized painting returned to family

PARIS (AP) — France's communist-led government returned a painting confiscated by the Nazis to the owner's family yesterday, in a symbolic gesture aimed at showing its commitment to restore stolen Jewish property. It was the latest restitution of Jewish belongings by European governments under pressure to return the artworks and funds stolen during World War II. French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette and German Ambassador Imo Stambek handed over the 19th century landscape to Antoinette Carvallo, 87, in a ceremony the government said it would like to repeat.

### TOUR PROGRAM

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February - June 1997

**Morocco, 13 days, departing April 2, 1997**  
Follow the roots of the famous Jewish community. Visit Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Fez, Marrakech. Visit the High Atlas mountain range, remote Berber tribes and villages, the Sahara desert with its beautiful oases.

**Turkey, 15 days, departing May 5, 1997**  
In-depth tour to the heart of Turkey from the Lycian shore via Cappadocia to Istanbul.

**Indonesia, Java and Bali, 15 days, departing Feb. 11, 1997**  
Visit Prambanan and Borobudur shrines in central Java, sunrise from the crater of Bromo volcano, traditional villages, and religious and dance festivals in Bali.

**China (including the Sichuan District), 18 days, departing March 13, 1997**  
Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, Leshan, Emeishan, Guilin, Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou.

**Greece, 10 days, departing May 12, 1997**  
The ancient classical kingdom combined with delightful islands, picturesque villages, charming people and music. Epidaurus, Nafplion, Mykine, Mystras, Olympia, Delphi, Meteora and more.

**Kenya Safari, 8 days, departing Feb. 10, 1997**  
Visit Lake Nakuru, Mount Kenya, Masai Mara National Park.

**Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic - Jewish oriented tour, 15 days, departing June 17, 1997**  
Budapest, Bratislava (the tomb of Hatam Sofer), Golden Prague with its synagogues, the "Golem," the Maharal, the high Tatra mountains, Theresienstadt concentration camp, Karlsbad, etc.

**The Different France, 18 days, departing June 15, 1997**  
Travel off the beaten track to Provence, Avignon, Pont du Gard, the synagogue at Carpentras, Orange, Carcassonne, Albi, Rocamadour, Sarlat, Padirac cave, Bourges, the Loire Valley, Mont St. Michel, Rouen.

**Jewish Roots in Spain, 16 days, departing April 1, 1997**  
Madrid, Barcelona, Toledo, Cordoba, Granada, etc.

**Sicily, 9 days, departing March 9, 1997**  
Sicily was inhabited by the Greeks, the Carthaginians, the Romans and many others. We visit the temples in Agrigento, see the famous Roman mosaics, and Syracuse, the city of Archimedes.

**Sinai, 4 days.**  
Visit: Nueba, Santa Catharina, short hikes & snorkeling.

For more information on any of the above tours,  
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Sun. - Thur. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Ask for Nicole or Siraik.



# High drama make-up

FLAIR  
GREER FAY CASHMAN

**L**IPSTICK marks on coffee cups this winter are just as likely to be blue, green or purple as pink, red or orange. In fact, make-up in general will be dramatic almost to the extent of being theatrical.

Dany Sanz, founder of the French cosmetics company Make Up For Ever was in Israel this week to celebrate the first anniversary of her company's local branch, which is run by comedienne Hannah Laszlo and her husband Benny Baruch.

Demonstrating her new looks and techniques, the petite, red-headed Sanz, kept up a steady line of patter, explaining her rainbow line in which the main focus is either purple, orange, turquoise or green.

The effect is an all-over one running from eyebrows to neckline. Colors are accentuated with metallic blends of silver or gold. "Everything is shiny this winter," said Sanz, noting that even powder has a metallic sheen.

Knowing how to blend colors is an essential part of the new winter cyber look. Part of the secret is in the brush. Sanz used a fine delicate brush as well as the thicker bushier kind which is generally used to apply powder and blusher.

The cyber look has also been developed by Israeli cosmetician Giora Shavit, who blends soft browns to give depth and glamour to both the mouth and the eyes. But unlike Sanz, who enhances cheekbones with a generous application of blusher, Shavit allows the face to act as a pale canvas for eyes and mouth, with just a faint dusting of



Don't take it for granted that all body lotions have a non-aggressive aroma - Marina de Bourbon body lotion is strong and fruity.

gold to add to the mystique.

Both Shavit and Sanz stress the importance of outlining the mouth. While this is usually done with a pencil or crayon which is darker than the lipstick itself, anyone with an overlarge mouth can disguise this feature by using a lighter color for the outline.

Mula Center's Professional Concealer Pencil is just right for this. Available in a natural skin tone, its main purpose is to cover skin blemishes, but it is also effective in

making the mouth look smaller.

Eyelashes always get more attention when the look is dramatic, and false eyelashes in multicolors and glistening blues, pinks, greens and purples will add a touch of eccentricity to high drama. For women who prefer their own natural lashes, mascara wands in different shapes and sizes abound.

Nina Ricci has produced a specially designed wand for easy grip in the Cils Ricci line. The bristle is short - approximately the length of

the eye, so basically all you have to do is hold it in place and blink. What's good about most mascara wands these days is that manufacturers have perfected a technique which prevents the mascara from caking. So even if you make numerous applications, your lashes won't stick to each other. But be careful, some mascaras leak.

In the fragrance field, one of the more pleasant scents around is that of Yardley White Lavender, which like all Yardley fragrances is gentle and refined without being overpowering. The eau de toilette is available in 15, 30 and 100 ml bottles retailing at NIS 69, NIS 99 and NIS 174.

Many women have discovered that body lotion is even more effective than perfume because its fragrance, while generally more delicate, does not evaporate for several hours. But don't take it for granted that all body lotions have a non-aggressive aroma. Marina de Bourbon body lotion has a strong and fruity.

Hats off to Guerlain for honesty. The prestigious French company which produces beauty products, cosmetics and fragrances has developed Issima Super Aquasurum which is rich in natural agents and priced at NIS 688 for 50 ml.

Yet despite its price, it doesn't present itself as a magic potion nor does it make any promises about skin rejuvenation and disappearing wrinkles. The closest it comes to any such claim is "fine lines seem to fade." What it does purport to do is help to increase the skin's moisturizing capacity. Please note that the operative word is help.

# You can sit on the floor or on the loaner

CAVEAT EMPTORI!  
RUTHIE BLUM

**B**UYING furniture has one major drawback: The merchandise rarely accompanies its new owner home on the day of purchase. For people with low gratification tolerance - such as myself - even the prospect of delay can turn such a transaction into a let-down. But when the actual delay turns out to be even greater than expected, the transaction becomes more of an ordeal than a deal.

And so it was for H.C., who had the misfortune of falling in love with an imported living-room set sold by Ron Center in Be'er Ya'acov.

"The shop has really nice furniture at reasonable prices," described H.C., by now in tears at having to sit on a cold floor two-and-a-half months after buying a "salon." "The service was also excellent, and the atmosphere friendly," she continued, sniffing. "I was even offered coffee," she wailed.

Not used to consumer complaints of this particular nature, I felt there must be a catch. Indeed, it turned out that H.C. had been the victim of the "buy now, and grow old waiting for your goods to arrive" syndrome. And the money she spent on long-distance calls in pursuit of her purchase could have afforded her a nice lamp to match the furniture she still hasn't received.

Furthermore, all of the solicitous behavior on the part of the salesman and other Ron Center

employees which H.C. enjoyed prior to purchase seemed to have vanished into thin air when the delivery date came and went. According to a frustrated H.C., each time she called to inquire, she was given the standard "in a few days" run-around.

Finally, it was explained to her that the fabric she had chosen was out of stock, and that she should come into the shop (a mere hour-and-a-half away from her Jerusalem home) to select an alternative. H.C. went berserk. "I'm having guests this week!" she thundered. At this point she was offered a "loaner living-room set" to tide her over until some unspecified date in the future.

Ron Center responded as follows: "According to the terms of H.C.'s order (specified in the customer contract on the back of the order slip), in cases of delay caused by suppliers, we reserve the right to cancel the order. We will make every effort to exchange this customer's [loaner] set immediately, upon the arrival of her order from the supplier."

Indeed, the terms of all orders from Ron Center include a paragraph on cancellations: "Ron Center Ltd. reserves the right to cancel the order in case of delay caused by suppliers. In such a

case, all of the payments made by the customer will be returned with interest... [calculated] from the estimated delivery date. The client does not have the right to cancel the order, but may change his choice of merchandise within seven days of the order for the same value, as long as the merchandise has not been delivered. In a case where Ron Center agrees to allow the customer to cancel an order, the customer will be charged 15% of the cost of the order."

Perhaps H.C. should have examined this little contract before finalizing the deal, though it is questionable whether it would have occurred to her that she was about to become a victim of supplier screw-ups.

Nevertheless, the salesperson should have pointed out the terms of the order verbally. Furthermore, as soon as the shop became aware that there was a problem with a particular fabric, any customer who selected it should have been informed immediately.

Mishaps are often unavoidable. And when good faith on the part of business establishments is exhibited, most consumers can deal rationally with the inconvenience. It is when the consumer is "shoed" and "pooch-pooched" that dissatisfaction is guaranteed.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

# Doctor, I'm in shock! I don't know what you mean...

A. MARK GLARFIELD

**P**HYSICIANS, like other professional groups, have developed a shorthand way for practitioners to communicate quickly and efficiently with one another, but, and there's the rub, not with anyone else.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., a physician and father of the great American writer and jurist, put it well: "I would never use a long word where a short one would answer the purpose. I know there are professors in this country who 'ligate' arteries. Other surgeons only tie them, and it stops the bleeding just as well."

R.A. Day, in his book *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper* (Oryx Press, 1985) skewers the medical jargonist mercilessly. He points out that such writers "never do; they perform. They never start, they initiate. They never make, they fabricate."

An occasional author will slip and use the word drug, but most will salivate, like Pavlov's dogs, in anticipation of using a chemotherapeutic agent.

Others, patients among them, would claim that medical jargon has developed primarily to obfuscate meanings and camouflage the English language in order to hide professional ignorance from our blithely unknowing patients.

Perhaps there is some truth to both theories. Regardless of who is right, I am interested in the words that both physicians and patients think they understand, but whose varying meanings they do not share. Take "hypertension" for example. To the medical practitioner this term refers simply to raised arterial blood pressure, a silent killer. To many a patient, this term is believed to signify merely a state of high nervous anxiety. Imagine the confusion engendered when the physician prescribes a diuretic to treat the "hypertensive" patient. One can understand why so many patients are a bit confused as to why they must pee all night long to treat their nerves. Easier by far to borrow a Valium from the brother-in-law.

When the physician inquires, "what medications do you take?" he is referring to all drugs: Prescription or over-the-counter, doled out by the inquiring physician or by any other doctor involved



in one's care. To the patient, this question often signifies one of two things, neither of which corresponds to the meaning the doctor had ascribed to the question. First, lay people often interpret the word "medication" to refer to prescription drugs only. Thus, in answering the doctor's query, they fail to mention that they also take Alka-Seltzer for indigestion, Benadryl for allergies or Advil for arthritis. All these nostrums too are "medications" that can have equally (or more) severe side effects than many "prescribed" pills.

Patients also interpret the question as referring

only to medications that the interviewing physician has ordered, and will not volunteer the names of pills prescribed by their other (sometimes fairly numerous) MDs. Also, patients almost never consider the doctor's question to refer to pills that have been prescribed, but not to them. The act of "borrowing" a tablet from one's wife, husband, or friend is rarely admitted to - although there is no doubt this unauthorized traffic occurs frequently enough.

"Shock" is another interesting term. It has a critically different meaning to the two solitudes. For patients (and the media too) this word refers to a

state of sudden and severe agitation of mind or emotion, as occurs, say, in those spared death in a terrible car accident. The journalistic account usually reads something as follows: "The survivors were admitted to a local hospital and treated for shock."

To the physician of course, "shock" refers to something completely different and far more serious. Same word, yet two radically different meanings.

Another term which from time to time causes some confusion is "discomfort," as in the doctor's

reassuring: "This [injection, examination of a tender body part, operation] might cause you a bit of discomfort." Physicians are not being completely callous when they hurt a patient. It's just that we're so used to inflicting pain (albeit the minimum necessary) that we tend to downplay its severity. A bit like the pilot who reassures his passengers that they're about to enter "a little turbulence."

Another interesting bit of terminological tension occurs over the word "prophylactic." Here both the patient and physician are correct in their differing interpretations.

To most patients, including all doctors before they went to medical school, "prophylactic" refers, as you might remember, to a condom. To the physician, however, "prophylactic" connotes something broader. In fact, it simply means "preventive" but does not restrict itself to the male organ. So for example, doctors use prophylactic antibiotics to prevent infection or heparin to forestall the development of venous thrombosis.

"Heart failure" is another term over which patients and their doctors don't know that they have agreed to disagree. To the physician, it signifies a weakening of the ability of the heart to pump out enough blood to the organs and extremities. It can be so mild as to be asymptomatic, or severe enough to threaten life itself. To the layperson however, "heart failure" is often confused with a "heart attack" (myocardial infarction). "Heart failure" is also muddled in many a patient's mind with the far more catastrophic "cardiac arrest."

To further muddy the waters for the layperson, heart attacks can cause either heart failure or cardiac arrest; try to explain to our befuddled patients that heart failure itself can bring on cardiac arrest.

Doctors must learn to listen to their patients, and always keep in mind most of them do not go to medical school. For their part, patients should learn to (politely, please) challenge their doctors and ask for an explanation of a word they do not understand.

Now that we have straightened out the problem of medical jargon, I would be interested in knowing who is going to take on lawyer lingo. Will it be the party of the first part, the party of the second part, ipso facto, or ad infinitum?

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## Unfunny coercion

**T**HE demand by Shas MK Shlomo Benizri to remove Gil Kopatch's popular satirical spot on the weekly Torah portion, which airs Friday night on Channel 1, is an embarrassing affront to the right of free speech, a cornerstone of any democratic society. While free speech has its limits, satirizing the Bible, even if in poor taste, does not come close to crossing those limits.

No one would deny the responsibility of publicly funded broadcasters to exercise their public trust responsibly and with sensitivity to all sectors of the population. But the attempt by Shas to get rid of the satirical sketches with political threats smacks of something that it claims to be against — religious coercion.

Rather than reinforcing the stereotype of religious parties out to take away the civil liberties of the secular public, Shas would garner much more support and understanding for its position if it sought to persuade rather than coerce. Instead, Shas's heavy-handed tactics have probably done more than anything to assure the program's continuation — and with a much greater audience. Yesterday's Knesset Education Committee hearing on the matter — with Gil Kopatch testifying — demonstrated this. Much of the hearing was broadcast on radio and TV; one could hardly have dreamed of a better way to generate publicity for the program. If this continues, MK Benizri should probably get a thank-you note from Channel 1's publicity director.

At the same time, that Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, has been in contact with the Israel Broadcasting Authority over the matter could prove disturbing. While it is appropriate to express the government's desire for sensitivity, it is not appropriate to exercise censorship in the face of threats from a coalition member.

Some people may think Israel suffers from an "excess" of democracy — too many parties, too vigorous a political debate — but Israelis are justifiably proud of having created a dynamic oasis

of free speech in a region in which such freedom is sorely lacking.

Nevertheless, since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the country has struggled to define what constitutes incitement to violence, and what is extreme but legitimate political rhetoric. There is a consensus that direct calls for violence cannot be tolerated.

But a television program that satirizes the portion of the week does not even come close to crossing this red line. Satire by definition is biting humor, but if it becomes simply malicious, vulgar, or shocking, it will fail on its own terms and is unlikely to survive for long.

Kopatch claims that his intention is to "bring the Torah portion to viewers." While it might be reasonable to doubt that bringing the viewer closer to the Torah or to Judaism is high on the entertainer's agenda, there is something to be said for getting secular Jews to relate the Torah portion to current events. Nor does it hurt to relate to biblical figures in human, rather than idealized terms. What makes biblical narrative so compelling is that it is so human, so full of love and pain, good and evil, triumph and tragedy.

The best protection against excessively offensive material on television is not political pressure, but public opposition. In the case of Kopatch, those who might be most offended by his spot on the Yair Lapid program are unlikely to ever see it, because it is broadcast on Friday night, when observant Jews do not watch television. Anyone else who is offended by the spot can simply choose not to watch, and perhaps make his or her feelings known to IBA officials.

In a democracy, the majority must be careful not to trample on the sensitivities of any minority. But either should minorities impose their will through political coercion. Rather than making political threats, MK Benizri would do well to rely on the public's good sense, good taste, and their ability to vote with their remote control.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BLOOD IS CHEAP

Sir — We saw on TV how someone threw hot tea on MK Yael Dayan. We read in the press the assault was identified as a Mr. Lederman, who previously had been sentenced to 20 years in jail for killing an Arab and had been released after three years. Can we now expect the murderer of Rabin to walk free in a few years, or is Arab blood cheaper than Jewish blood?

MARCEL FREY  
Tel Aviv.

### LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLE

Sir — I would like to thank Lily Pollack for an interesting lecture on European history, "How the French did it," (October 29). I fail to see what all of it has to do with the Israeli situation. Pollack gives some principles making for good neighbor-states. Israel-Arab war is not about neighbors, but about one piece of land some call "Eretz Yisrael," others "Palestine." A war to liberate Palestine forces the other side to defend Eretz Yisrael. This cannot be called a conflict, it is a life-and-death struggle in which only one side can win.

LEA DE LANGE  
Jerusalem.

### PAGAN CUSTOMS

Sir — I found two related articles in your issue of October 28 both interesting and depressing. Both relate to the originally Christian celebration of Halloween. The first, in the entertainment review section, is proudly entitled, "Hot new band — a Halloween treat." The party at Limor Hall in Tel Aviv celebrated Halloween on its accepted date, Thursday, October 31. The only saving grace was that at least this year it did not fall on a Friday, thus saving further desecration, i.e. desecration of our Holy Sabbath.

What is most interesting is the detailed article on Halloween reprinted from *The New York Times*, which puts the "holiday" and its modern American adaptations of it into proper perspective. Even Rev. Pat Robinson calls it a "Satanical ritual" and seemed to recommend its abolition even among Christians!

Why do our Israeli youth draw on barbarian customs in the name of pluralism? January 1 Sylvester celebrations, thousands studying Buddha in India, Nazi boot fads — what's in store for us next? When will our secular youth realize that the cultural vacuum they wish to fill will be most meaningful if they delve into the vast sources of their own culture (dare I say "religion")? JANICE WEINREB  
Ra'anana.

### WHITEWASH ATTEMPT

Sir — Yossi Beilin's attempt to whitewash the PLO's failure to abrogate its covenant, the most antisemitic document since the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, is a prime example of the "Big Lie" ("A lot of needless fuss," October 30).

In your article, "Covenant deadline unmet" (October 27), you proved conclusively that the April 24 PLO Council decision regarding the covenant was nothing but a typical Arafat charade.

Mr. Peres's harelipped statement that it was "the most important development in our region in a hundred years" was a not very successful attempt to fool people. It would seem that Mr. Beilin is not only making advance preparations for Labor's line of opposition in case our government insists on reciprocity by the PA, but he is also deliberately encouraging Arafat not to honor his Oslo obligations.

Shame on you, Mr. Beilin.  
BILL OAKFIELD  
Netanya.

### HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Sir — Prime Minister Netanyahu was quoted in your October 15 issue as saying that "Holocaust education is vital." It is important to disseminate the truth about the Holocaust.

The need for Holocaust education is made all the more urgent by the fact that senior PLO representatives and official PLO publications continue to disseminate lies and distortions about the Holocaust. Mahmoud Aghas (Abu Mazar), the No. 2 official in the PLO, has still not withdrawn the book he wrote, in which he claimed that "the Zionist movement was a partner in the slaughter of the Jews" and alleging that the Nazis may have really killed less than one million Jews (*The Jerusalem Post*, January 26, 1995).

In a similar vein, the PA's official Ministry of Information issued a statement on April 22, in which it compared the situation of the Palestinian Arabs to "the atrocities committed against the Jews at Auschwitz, Birkenau and Dachau concentration camps" and claimed "our homeland was transformed into a big concentration camp..."

MORTON A. KLEIN,  
National President,  
Zionist Organization  
of America  
New York.

### THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT

Sir — The contents of Yossi Beilin's article of October 30, "A lot of needless fuss," concerning the Palestinian Covenant, is an absolute insult to anyone's intelligence.

That the learned professor can come out with such drivel is utterly beyond my comprehension and leads me to believe that, if this is really his woolly-headed thinking, then it would perhaps be better if he were relegated to the dustbin of history.

To the best of my knowledge, the deletion of the clauses calling for the destruction of Israel has always been at the forefront of all negotiations and agreement and Rabin is on record as having said that he would not proceed with implementing the accords unless and until this was done. Arafat has repeatedly undertaken to do this and, finally, when Israel allowed the terrorists, who were members of the Palestinian National Council, to come to the much-heralded meeting, the clauses were not removed or changed and the covenant was not abrogated. Instead we had a hodgepodge of lies and cover-ups and Peres proclaimed it the greatest event in our recent history.

The fact is that if we are in a peace process and if we intend to live peacefully, side by side, which I am all in favor of doing, then, before we go any further, the Palestinian Covenant, which Beilin describes as "a pathetic outdated document," must be unequivocally abrogated without further delay or ado. If Arafat is unwilling, or unable to do this, then we have no partners of peace. Total reciprocity on the fulfillment of agreements is absolutely essential and, unless we start to build up some mutual trust, the process will, sooner or later, break down.  
MIKE AYL  
Ashkelon.

### SATISFIED PATIENT

Sir — I disagree entirely with Sam Orbaum's article of November 1, "The Kacha zeh syndrome."

After almost five years of regular visits (including hospitalization) at the Hadassah Ein Karem hospital, I have only praise and compliments for the dedication, professionalism and hard work of all members of its staff.

The bureaucratic process is more efficient than most institutions I know, and the only delays I have encountered have been due to their giving priority to emergencies. Mr. Orbaum should thank the staff of Hadassah Hospital for saving his life as they did mine, rather than complaining that a couple of hours have been wasted.

BRIAN ZLEITMAN  
Jerusalem.



DELEG 96

## 1967 all over again

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

**D**URING a BBC broadcast from Cairo on October 26 a high-ranking Egyptian official was quoted as saying: "At one time Israel was seen as dividing the Arabs. Now it is our turn to create divisions among the Israelis."

This was how he explained President Mubarak's recent invitations to President Weizman and Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres to visit Cairo.

The BBC made no bones about pointing out that this was a clear snub to Prime Minister Netanyahu.

It was just one more arrow aimed at the premier from Cairo, to be laid alongside others that have been shot at Netanyahu from the Egyptian quiver for some time now — like calling him a Nazi, comparing him to Hitler and saying he needs to see a psychiatrist.

There are circles in Israel who smile indulgently at such insults while they in turn do everything they can to denigrate Israel's democratically-elected premier. (A "we shall not forget" group this week proclaimed that the present government was "born in sin, and does not deserve to rule.")

One might in the normal way dismiss such verbal insults, but for one fact: As surely as winter rain-clouds filled Israel's skies this week so are war clouds ominously gathering.

The situation today is eerily similar to the scenario in 1967, when Egypt and Syria, backed by Soviet weapons and evil intent, noted a comparable atmosphere of discord in Israel. It was the prevailing severe economic recession at the time that gave rise to the black joke requesting "the last citizen leaving Lod [today Ben-Gurion] Airport to please turn off the lights."

On the political front was prime minister Levi Eshkol, a political pygmy in the shadow of his predecessor David Ben-Gurion. Eshkol tried to curry favor with Egypt by ordering his pet "peace dove" Abba Eban to conduct a policy of nothing less than all-out appeasement. Then, as today, the Arab nations perceived Israel as weak and politically split.

Other Eshkol "doves" turned even to the Kremlin for support, just as today their successors appeal to Europe, especially France, and Moscow to create a situation in which Israel will be compelled to make major sacrifices to please its Arab neighbors. On the eve of the Six Day War the lions of the Arab world, perceiving their hated foe as being on its knees, unsheathed their swords and marched on Israel from Syria

in the north and Egypt in the south.

Egyptian intelligence documents found in Sinai proved that Gamal Abdel Nasser did not want a full war, just enough military hubbub to cause the dispirited Jews to scream and accept such Egyptian demands as handing over Elat.

It didn't quite work out that way. The Israelis roared back — to such effect that an astonished Eshkol found himself ruling a kingdom almost as large as the one created by the warrior King David 3,000 years ago.

Now let's look at today. The Arabs are buoyed by the vicious attacks being made by opponents

plunging Israel's government. Again the ultimate purpose may not be all-out, total war but to catapult Shimon Peres into a newly-formed national unity government. Little wonder, then, that the Labor Party leader is such a welcome guest chez Mubarak and Arafat.

As Mubarak said on October 28, Mubarak, in the company of Peres, said Syria does not intend war against Israel. However, the Egyptian leader warned that "something more terrible than war will result if Netanyahu does not fulfill every last letter of the Oslo accords."

As Mubarak smiled benignly at the father of the Oslo accords, Peres, seated next to him, was asked by journalists what Mubarak meant. "Probably terrorism," he answered.

Surely as leader of the opposition it behooved Peres to protest the Egyptian's threats? Surely his compliant attitude was tantamount to inviting a marauder to break into one's home? Israeli intelligence is conscious of the danger. We were told by a top figure: "Today there is full-scale cooperation between Arafat, Mubarak and Assad. We suspect they might repeat the 1967 mistake of Nasser, their idol."

A scenario we envisage seriously is for the Syrians to make a limited move in the Golan and seize a couple of Druze villages to "liberate" them. In addition the Palestinian police might open fire on Israeli soldiers as they did a few weeks ago.

And the Egyptians might coordinate with them, with perhaps a surprise bombing raid on Dimona to drive home their message about the Israeli "nuclear center" they have been criticizing so incessantly and for so long. The Arabs' purpose is clear: To bring Netanyahu to his knees and force him to fulfill all Israel's obligations under the Oslo accords (never mind that the Palestinians have breached virtually all of theirs).

It would be 1967 all over again — but with a difference. Israel would be facing the reality of a confrontation with one hand tied behind its back. For in its midst waits the menace of 50,000 or so heavily armed Arafat "police-men."

The only way out is for the country — left and right — to unite immediately. In this way, perhaps, it can fend off the danger.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

## POSTSCRIPTS

**THE FRESHMEN** engineering students had their assignment, and ate it too.

The 45 students in an introductory engineering course at West Virginia University were asked to build small cars capable of coasting down an incline.

One catch, though: The design had to be edible.

There were some creative entries, such as a spat ball pepper with pepperoni for wheels. Another car was fashioned from a block of sharp cheddar cheese and had Oreos cookies to keep it rolling.

"It's patterned after a Lamborghini Diablo," Brent Criser said of the cheddar car.

Professor Bill Miller said the students were graded on the cars' speed, design and innovative use of materials. And he was serious about eating the projects, saying students who failed to consume them would receive no grade.

Some cars were more palatable than others. Edward Motern noted that there might be a problem with the salami that was the centerpiece of his team's creation.

"It's a week old, man," a teammate pointed out. Somehow, they managed to get it down.

**ABRAHAM MUNGIA** was doing pretty well with walking. So the three-year-old moved up a step to try driving the family car.

The Corpus Christi, Texas, toddler grabbed the keys from a table while his mother was on the telephone and slipped out of the house.

He climbed into the car, standing up behind the steering wheel, and started the engine.

"Once he timed the motor on the way the carburetor was set the car started to roll, and he knew he needed to steer," a policeman said.

Abraham made it through two busy intersections before the car bounced over a curb, stopped through a fence and plowed three blocks from home.

"He was still standing up," the policeman said. "He never even fell down."

"We're not giving him a ticket," he added. "Maybe he was going out for a cookie."

**ONE DIRTY** word and market vendors in Guadalajara could lose their jobs.

A new city ordinance says workers in city markets "are obliged to: I. Observe high order and moral standards. II. Treat the public with due consideration. III. Use decent

language."

The new law forms part of applications for permits that vendors must sign in order to trade in city marketplaces. If a vendor breaks the law, his operating permit could be revoked.

Guadalajara is known for efforts to strike a high moral ground in its laws. Earlier this year, officials told female employees of the public works department they could no longer wear mini-skirts.

Francisco Beruben, a stallholder at Guadalajara's El Mirador market, said he's not sure the new law will keep everyone from biting their tongue.

"You speak as you are spoken to," he said.

IT WAS definitely one of the weirder cases of theft: a man stole his own name off his mug shot.

"I am not going to add to your sentence," Judge Sean Overend told Paul Carthy after he pleaded guilty to stealing the magnetic letters attached to the board he held up when he posed for a mug shot.

Carthy, of Plymouth, England, explained: "I took them as a souvenir."

## Single soldier

TEDDY PREUSS

**O**F all the gratuitous advice vouchsafed to us by the participants of the anti-nuclear conference held recently in Jerusalem, only one merits any real consideration.

Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli equivalent of atomic spy Klaus Fuchs, has been kept in solitary confinement for 10 years. Those who urged clemency for Vanunu argued that total isolation can drive anyone insane. For a country trying to ease the plight of its spy, Jonathan Pollard, this is a consideration.

Three participants of world renown — Daniel Ellsberg of the US, Neil Mirzhanov of Russia and British Nobel Prize Laureate Joseph Rotblat — sought to explain why Israel has no need for nuclear or any other weapons of mass destruction. The first two men knowingly ran serious risks to reveal state secrets about weapons of mass destruction. They may be said to have the moral right to preach to others.

However, the three come from countries that possess not only nuclear weapons but other weapons of mass destruction, as well as massive inventories of war planes, tanks, ships and infantry brigades that could cover the Sahara Desert.

The smallest of the three, Britain, is about 10 times Israel's size in both population and territory. None is under threat of destruction; all live in relative peace with their neighbors.

Depriving them of their nuclear arsenals, therefore, would open them up to threat of attack, much less destruction. They would also remain military powers owing to their vast arsenals of conventional weapons.

The same is true of other nuclear powers like China and France, which also have large territories and populations and vast and variegated arsenals. What they do not have are preachers like Ellsberg, Mirzhanov and Rotblat demanding that they abjure their nuclear arsenals lest they provoke countries like Japan, Korea, Germany or Portugal to seek nuclear weapons of their own.

Israel can in no way be described as a military power, and threats to annihilate it are still very much heard. It does have a strong and well-equipped army, but its armed forces in no way measure up to the real and potential power of its enemies. In addition Israel's population is about one-fortieth the size of those enemies.

The best analogy here is that of a single soldier armed with a pistol confronting a full enemy company complete with bayonets, spears and bows and arrows.

VANUNU thus ought not to be compared to Ellsberg, Mirzhanov, Rotblat or other anti-nuclear whistle-blowers, but to the biblical Delilah, who gave away the secret of Samson's strength to his Philistine enemies.

Samson's only advantage vis-a-vis the Philistines lay in his tresses. Once they were shorn, as a result of Delilah's perfidy, he was doomed.

Intelligence assessments say a number of our enemies are hard at work developing nuclear weapons. Israel's nuclear installation at Dimona perhaps contributed to pushing them in that direction; much more likely it is what finally compelled the more moderate among them to abandon their dream of annihilating us.

Egypt's late president Anwar Sadat admitted as much when he cited Israel's alleged atomic arsenal as one of the major obstacles to its annihilation.

It may even be argued that the suspicion of Israel having atom bombs was a catalyst of the peace process, partial and fragile as it still may be.

Thus Vanunu's traitorous act, far from contributing to peace, actually endangered its advent.

The proposal to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East is a lofty ideal. As premier Shimon Peres even declared that once peace came Israel would gladly join all efforts and sign pacts to that end.

But note: only after peace. Any attempt to disarm Israel of such weapons before the advent of peace would only serve as temptation to our enemies to launch another war.

If Messrs. Ellsberg, Mirzhanov and Rotblat truly want peace, let them apply simultaneously to Israel's enemies with the demand that they divest themselves of all weapons of mass destruction.

Among these one should include a million rifles, which can be as murderous as any non-conventional weapon.

The writer is a veteran journalist.



# Is the Internet poised to collapse?

**T**HE Internet is broken. The evidence is everywhere.

ELIZABETH WEISE

Outages drop millions offline for hours, sometimes days. The number of users has been doubling every year since 1988, and traffic on some long-distance routes doubles every four months. World Wide Web pages take forever to load because data pipes are clogged.

On the other hand, the Internet is doing just fine.

Audio and video applications, formerly only dreamed of, are now commonplace. Messages zip along 30 percent faster than two years ago. The major long-haul providers are increasing their capacity at a prodigious rate. This year alone, MCI quadrupled the load its lines can carry.

Both of these outlooks are correct: the truth lies somewhere in between.

Engineers have been predicting the collapse of computer networks since before there even was an Internet, and the scene re-emerges every few years.

The latest round had its start with a flurry of columns, speeches and interviews late last year by networking pioneer Bob Metcalfe, who warned of the Net's impending supernova. "The Internet has outgrown its design and needs to be fixed," he said. "There are going to be more outages, and they're going to get worse."

Metcalfe believes that the Internet, as it is currently constructed - a loose, illogically connected bunch of computer networks, needs to step into the real world. But while he sees a system in the process of disintegration, others see innovation and growth.

"The Internet isn't going to fall apart. We're just in a state of transition to a faster, more stable network," says Fred Baker, president of the Internet Engineering Task Force, the body that sets Internet technical standards. And, as far as Internet demographer John Quarterman can tell, the system is working just fine. "The trend is that service is improv-

ing, just not as fast as people are being added on. But that's the same as it ever was," says Quarterman, whose Matrix Information Services, based in Austin, Texas, provides some of the best figures for Internet growth and usage.

In a sense, the disagreement is between those who think the free market of ideas that makes up the global network of networks will work things out all by itself, and those who say it needs direction. Says Metcalfe: "I'm fighting the bio-mimetic intelligentsia that runs the Internet, the people who think it's alive and can't be managed." In a bemused tone, he adds, "I think we should hold a great big party, congratulate them for building such a wonderful thing as the Internet, and then we should send them home." To which Quarterman answers in the gentlemanly tones used by all involved in the debate: "Let me quote an old Texas adage: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

THE NETWORK'S growing pains are perhaps inevitable. Until last year, the infrastructure of the Net had a kind of de-facto organization, in that the National Science Foundation ran the major backbone routes - the high-capacity long-distance lines that carried most network traffic.

When the government decided that the Internet, originally a Cold War research project, was big enough to take care of itself, it relinquished its tenuous control and retired the NSF backbones. That caused two things to happen: Suddenly, it was possible to run commercial traffic on the Internet (forbidden as long as it was created with public money); and a hodgepodge of commercial companies took over the long-haul business.

Commercial traffic meant more business and a land-rush in cyberspace, as everyone scrambled to get online. It also meant millions more users every year and, consequently, an incredible demand for more capacity (bandwidth, as it's known

online). Rather than one organization laying down fairly logical links between Internet service providers; a gaggle of commercial services put in the connections that worked best for their needs, but not necessarily the needs of the network as a whole.

To function reliably, a more centralized network is necessary, Metcalfe believes, and he wants the companies that supply Internet connections to individuals and businesses to step in and take charge. "The Internet services providers, of which there are 3,000 in North America, need to band together," he says.

In his vision, these free-market entities would meet regularly, track outages, debug the Internet protocols, rationalize the spaghetti of connection between networks and create a more regularized billing system between them. In fact, he's advocating using one of the Internet's own self-organized groups, the Internet Engineering Planning Group, to do it before other, less benign, entities decide to take it on.

"The current management vacuum creates the possibility for monopolies to step in and take over," he says. "One possibility would be the government, God forbid. Another, which is terribly worrisome, is the telephone companies. That would be death, they're slow to innovate and they charge an arm and a leg. The third kind would be Microsoft and we don't want them running the Internet."

Actually, Microsoft agrees with Metcalfe. Peter Ford of its Internet working group sees a future that holds some degree of consolidation, but in which different kinds and levels of service are available from many companies. "The beauty of the Internet is that we'll always have options," Ford says.

Whatever the future holds: brown-outs, minor collapses, differential levels of service, the Internet seems uniquely able to evolve into just what's needed. As one engineer said at the Internet Society's meeting in Montreal this year, "The Net is dead. Long live the Net!"



Some of Havana's 1,500 Jews line up at the city's only kosher butcher shop.

(Canadian Press)

# Advantages of being a Jew in Cuba

HADASSAH BAT HAIM

**I**N Havana, the Jewish community is as poor as the rest of the population, but worship is free and there are no restrictions against them. Indeed, Cuba is unique in that it is somewhat advantageous to be a Jew there.

According to Avram Berezniak, shohet at Havana's kosher butcher, and president of Adath Yisroel congregation, about 1,500 Jews live in Havana, and there are three synagogues - each of which functions separately from the others.

Adath Yisroel was founded in 1925 in the former main Jewish quarter of Havana. Fidel Castro has personally guaranteed its continuing existence and supplies. Extra rations are issued to the synagogue every Friday night, every Shabbat and every religious holiday, when congregants are invited to a full meal. As well as the ever-present rice and beans on which most Cubans exist, there are chicken and salad, wine and dessert.

The entrance to the synagogue is down narrow discolored steps and through an iron door. There are a lower and higher level to the synagogue. Upstairs there is a vast hall with seating for 300. There are also a mikve and a women's gallery. The synagogue is maintained by gifts from abroad. The three ornate Torah scrolls are relics of the 8,000 Jews who lived in Havana before Castro's 1959 revolution.

Sometimes there is a wedding or a bar mitzva where there is music and dancing. Berezniak prepares children for bar and bat mitzva (although this is an Orthodox synagogue). Weddings have to wait for a visiting rabbi to sanctify the civil contract.

Circumcision presents a problem as there is no mohel. When there is a need and there are enough applicants - male children and converts - a mohel is brought from Mexico. At the last gathering there were 14, ranging in age from six months to 40.

JEWES have been through difficult



Shevet Achim Synagogue, one of 3 synagogues in Havana, is located in the city's oldest section.

(Eliam Goldgraber)

times in Havana. In the 1930s there were many bands of German sympathizers who smashed windows and threw stones. In 1939 a ship, the *St. Louis*, carrying more

left-wingers, joining their Cuban comrades in efforts to establish a democratic government. Others, factory owners, diamond merchants, and professionals, decided the US was a better option and their properties were nationalized.

Unlike other Cubans, who need invitations and bank guarantees before they can leave the country, Jews can leave for Israel any time, as they are considered to be going home. This even includes second- and third-generation Cubans.

News from Israel is followed eagerly in newspapers and on television - both heavily censored. There are no satellite dishes. Letters from abroad take a month to six weeks to arrive. Nevertheless, news from and about Israel is accurate and up-to-date.

The Hebrew school named for Theodor Herzl and Shalom Aleichem has long since closed. Nevertheless, all the regular members read Hebrew, though none speak it. The teacher had spent a year in Israel for this very purpose and more than 20 men and women earnestly followed his blackboard symbols.

There are many teachers amongst the congregation. The younger ones are engineers, guides and hotel personnel. Jobs as waiters or chambermaids are eagerly sought after as a source of much prized dollars. There are "dollar shops" where everything is available - from cosmetics to television sets. Many have given up the academic life for one less demanding but better paid. The porter had been a newspaper editor, the taxi driver had worked in two jobs, as a professor of economics and a caterer, and both had brought him less than he needed.

However, there is a growing feeling that the Jewish community is hanging on with tenacity but increasing depression. "There will be great trouble here," one of the congregants told me in a whisper. "When Castro goes there will be terrible struggles for power. We dare not take sides, but we will be blamed anyway. That's our history. We have no future here."

# Helping around the house doesn't hide those negative dynamics



DEAR RUTHIE  
RUTHIE BLUM

**D**EAR Ruthie, My wife is constantly criticizing me. If I don't help out around the house, she's on my case about that. If I do help out, she always has something to say about the poor quality of my help. If I try to joke about it with her, she gets furious. If I remain serious, that's no good either. And every time I think I've figured out what it is I'm supposed to do to please her, she turns around and changes the rules. What's a poor, miserable, henpecked, well-meaning husband to do?

It may also shed some light on why you haven't a clue as to what she wants from you.

The bad news is that until you both confront the real reason for the criticism, no amount of supposed appeasement on your part will suffice. The good news is that once you both realize that a more fundamental issue is at the heart of your negative dynamics, you will have a fighting chance to resolve it. Therapy is one option. Talking it out for as many hours as it takes might be another.

One final note: This answer is not to be interpreted as an exemption from helping out around the house.

Dear Ruthie, My twin brother and I have always been very close, though being different sexes, we grew up with different interests. A few months ago, he married his best friend. I was thrilled at first, but since then things haven't

worked out at all as I'd planned. Rather than gaining a sister-in-law whom I already loved, I feel I have lost both my brother and my best friend. I feel just plain lost.

Double Troubled  
Sydney Australia

Dear DT, Whenever a sibling or a friend gets married, there is an initial sense of loss on the part of remaining side-line singles. The title of an old song - *Wedding Bells are Breaking up that Old Gang of Mine* - sums up this common phenomenon nicely.

As in the case of any new situation, this one requires an adjustment (or readjustment) period. It is not likely that two people with whom you have a close connection will turn away from you merely due to matrimony. Unless, of course, you maneuver to push them away, as a result of your possibly unfounded feelings of insecurity.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

# Holocaust center opens in Ukraine

**T**WO tiny, elderly Ukrainian Jewish women this week stood arm in arm, marveling at an elaborate new community center in Kiev for Holocaust survivors.

"I never, after all these years, imagined this," Hanna Abramova, 81, said repeatedly, enraptured by her shiny surroundings.

She is one of an estimated 135,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors still living in Ukraine, most of whom are scraping by on meager pensions.

Called the Hessed Avot Center, it provides everything from free meals to medical care and is funded by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The \$1 million project transformed a crumbling former kindergarten into a sparkling showpiece that interrupts the surrounding skyline of drab Soviet-era apartment blocks.

Hundreds of people, from elderly couples bundled in shabby coats to young Ukrainian officials and US Embassy representatives, turned out for Monday's opening.

For Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference, the opening was culmination of years of work.

"I hope this building will symbolize all that is right in Jewish

life," he said. "It makes me feel that these bones will gather flesh and live again," he said of the Holocaust victims.

Abramova spent much of the war in hiding, and she lost many friends in the Nazi massacre at Babi Yar in 1941.

Her parents were persecuted in pogroms by nationalists in imperial Russia, and her husband was killed

in the war. She bore no children, and has lived alone ever since.

Many elderly Ukrainian Jews live alone, often because their spouses have died and their children have emigrated.

Like all Ukrainian retirees, they are surviving on what Miller called "minuscule" pensions, averaging the equivalent of \$50 a month.

Organizers hope the center will

set an example for other elderly care programs in Ukraine and other former Soviet republics, where post-communist economic woes have particularly hurt the needy.

The Claims Conference has helped open similar but much smaller centers in other cities throughout the former Soviet Union. The conference is an umbrella group representing Jewish organizations worldwide, including B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee. (AP)

**Israel's own agony aunt has the answers**

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, November 7, 1996

## Gov't says tourism down 15% from last year

EVELYN GORDON

TOURISM for 1996 is likely to be as much as 15% below 1995's record totals, a senior Tourism Ministry official told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Moshe Rigel, deputy director-general of the ministry, added that the picture for 1997 looked even worse.

If the level of reservations for the rest of 1997 does not improve compared to the number received so far for next spring, total tourism in 1997 is likely to fall by an additional 20% compared to 1996, Rigel warned.

In 1995, some 2.5 million tourists came to Israel.

Rigel, who described the industry as in need of "intensive care," said the ministry urgently required another NIS 100 million to invest in promoting tourism to Israel.

Hadar Segel, of the Treasury's budget division, said the Treasury would be willing to give additional funds to the ministry for this purpose, though she did not specify a figure.

However, she said, the Treasury would expect this money to be supplemented by a change in the Tourism Ministry's internal budget, so that the ministry would also spend more of its own money on tourism promotion. Committee Chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) strongly encouraged both the Treasury and the Tourism Ministry to divert more funds to this purpose, saying it was essential to prevent the collapse of one of Israel's major industries.

The discussion took place in the context of a committee review of the State Comptroller's Report on the Government Tourism Company. According to the report, this company invested tens of millions of shekels a year in various tourism projects with no fixed criteria or method of setting priorities.

It invested in some projects whose contribution to the tourism industry is extremely doubtful, the report said, and in others whose costs are likely to be greater than their benefits.

In addition, the report said, the company used money earmarked for infrastructure projects for other purposes, which violates the Basic Law: The Budget. The ministry reported on the steps it has taken to correct these problems, but the committee's conclusion was that much remained to be done.

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## Golden Lines, Barak Co. win overseas telephone calls tender

### Cost of international calls expected to fall dramatically

JUDY SIEGEL

TWO consortia, the Golden Lines (Kavei Zahav) Company and the Barak Company, won the tender to compete with Bezeq International on providing overseas telephone service, the Communications Ministry announced yesterday.

The price of international phone calls is expected to fall sharply soon after the licenses are issued, in approximately a month. The winning consortia, which will begin offering services in about seven months, will invest \$100 million in building infrastructure here over the next decade.

Once the services begin operation, the charge for calling abroad will be little more than conversing with someone in another Israeli area code. A call to the US, via Golden Lines, will cost 65 agorot per minute plus VAT and via Barak 62 agorot; dialing via Bezeq International currently costs NIS 3.53.

To call Japan, Barak's charge will be a bargain 43 agorot, com-

pared to NIS 1.43 on Golden Lines and Bezeq's current NIS 4.34. Call France for 80 agorot through Golden Lines, NIS 1.04 with Bezeq. Bezeq subscribers will be free to call via any provider they choose, but the three companies will undoubtedly offer special bonuses for loyalty to them alone.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who announced the choice of the two consortia, who beat out four other bidders, said the addition of two giant players in the field would revolutionize the way people here communicate, just as the invention of the automobile and the airplane changed transportation habits earlier in this century.

Rami Belnikov heads Golden Lines and Meir Leizer chairs Barak. Ministry director-general Shlomo Waxe, who chaired the tender board, said all six con-

tents made "impressive bids," but that the two were chosen "unanimously" on the basis of offered prices, the provision of 15 additional services, billing systems and a general evaluation.

The Golden Lines group is comprised of SouthWestern Bell (10.1%), Amek (25%), Globescom (22.08%), Star-Italy (26.4%) and Caham (16.47%). The Barak group is made up of ClalCom (44%), Sprint USA (25%), Manav (10%), Deutsche Telekom (10.5%), and France Telecom.

The losers were: the Dolphin group (BellSouth USA, Safra, Discount Investments, TelGlobe Canada, Israel and S. Pioterkovskiy); the Sental group (Korea Telecom, Leumi and Partners, Carden Investments, Frontier USA and the Shaked family); the Euro Kol group (Poalim Infrastructures and Technologies,

Eurocom, Bell-Atlantic USA, Option Italia from Sweden, and Option New Zealand Telecom) and the Newton group (Tadiran Communications, Eidan, Darcom, British TelCom and MCI USA).

The ministry issued a tender a year ago, said he welcomed the competition.

Moshe Haba, the chairman of Bezeq International, a Bezeq-owned subsidiary established a year ago, said he welcomed the competition.

"There is no question that rates for overseas calls will drop drastically, and that the number of such calls will increase tremendously. I foresee that companies in other countries will use Israel as a destination for their call-back services, just as Israeli firms have used countries in Europe and elsewhere to route calls more cheaply. Overseas rates will now reach those of the US and Europe."

He warned, however, that the much-lower charges will create a "collapse" in the fee system, under which Bezeq earns some \$130 million a year from foreign telecommunications companies for the value of the difference between incoming and outgoing calls.

Asked whether Bezeq International intends to reduce its rates to the level of Golden Lines and Barak, Haba did not offer figures, but said his company's rates would be "very attractive and be introduced before the other companies begin. We will also have the advantage of being able to offer higher quality and better services because of our infrastructure and foreign connections, without noisy lines."

He predicted that even with two prominent competitors, Bezeq International would remain the biggest provider of overseas dialing services in Israel.



Greta Beer, who is suing the Swiss Bank to recover stolen Jewish assets, poses in front of the Swiss Bank building yesterday in New York. Beer is hunting for her late father's fortune.

## Bankers: Lauder's bid for Africa-Israel bound to fail

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Ronald Lauder-Bear Stearns group's bid in the Africa-Israel investments tender is bound to be dismissed, thus leaving parent company Bank Leumi with only two effective bidders in the tender for the 62-year-old holding company, a source close to the negotiations said yesterday.

US business tycoon Ronald Lauder, in partnership with New York investment bank Bear Stearns, submitted a bid subject to conditions that are not included in the transaction document, said the source. The two other groups competing for the investment consortium, Lev Leviev and a South African investment group, submitted bids significantly higher than the \$330 million minimum value Leumi has set for the company, said Leumi.

Leumi is selling a block of shares representing about 46.58% of Africa-Israel's share capital and some 54.2% of the voting rights in the company. The company is required to sell its holdings in the industrial, real estate and tourism

conglomerate to 25% so as to comply with the Banking Law.

Leumi entered negotiations with the Leviev and South African groups yesterday in an attempt to conclude the transaction as soon as possible. The bank expects to reach an agreement before November 21, the deadline the bidders have to perform their due diligence examinations of the company.

According to estimates, Leviev submitted the highest bid, of about \$400m. The amount is expected to increase in the framework of the negotiations.

Leviev could not be reached for comment. The businessman is well known in the Israeli diamond field but virtually unknown in the capital market. During the last two years, Leviev has expressed interest in purchasing a large public company engaged in the real estate sector.

The South African Group is made up of a public company and Africa Israel's minority shareholders.

## More than 100 Jordanian firms at Ramallah trade fair

DAVID HARRIS

SOME 105 Jordanian company representatives arrived in Ramallah yesterday at the start of a nine-day business fair.

The event, initiated by Jordan, aims to expand trade between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

"We hope it will bring to the attention of the local market what is available in Jordan," said Shukri Bash'ara, executive vice president of the London-based Arab Bank.

The bank's Jordan operation has helped fund the visit of the industrialists.

The opening ceremony was attended by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Ahn Ragheb.

The event has been organized without the participation of the Israeli government.

"The event is organized by Jordanian businesses from all

sectors," said one of the organizers, Abdul el-Qa'ad.

"Since we are talking about the internal interests of these firms, and of the Jordanian government, there was no need to inform the Israeli authorities or companies that may have been interested in participating."

"We are doing this in Palestine for the Palestinians," said event co-ordinator and Jordan Export Development Corporation deputy director-general Farouk Haddid.

"As such there was never an issue of whether we should invite Israelis to the show."

According to the event's organizers, exports from the PA to Jordan totaled \$16 million last year, with imports reaching \$25m.

"The aim is to significantly increase Jordanian exports to the PA territories," said organizer el-Qa'ad.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Insurance sales now on Internet: The Direct Insurance Company will begin to market insurance policies via E-mail, the company said this week.

The company intends to open an internet site during the next few weeks which will allow customers to independently purchase auto, home and life insurance policies. According to management, Direct Insurance will be the first company in the world offering this service. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Bloomberg Information TV joins Canalsatellite: Canalsatellite, the digital satellite pay-television service of Canal+France, said it signed an exclusive deal with Bloomberg Information TV to carry a French language service.

The service, launched by Bloomberg in collaboration with French news agency Agence France-Presse and business radio station RFM, will be part of Canalsatellite's basic service from November 16 and will run 24 hours a day in December.

Using split screens, viewers can watch television reports on economic, financial and general news in the upper part of the screen while reading AFP headlines at the bottom. *Reuter*

Britain to boost trade links with Yemen: Britain plans to boost its trade relations with Yemen whose economy is moving in the right direction, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said on Wednesday.

Rifkind said more British cabinet ministers will be visiting Yemen to look into ways to improving trade between the two countries.

"The potential is quite substantial given that this is a country of 16 million people... it is a poor country but its economy is firmly moving in the market economy direction," Rifkind told reporters. *Reuter*

## Elbit returns to the black; Teledata reports record revenue

COMPANY RESULTS

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ELBIT Vision Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: EVSNF), a Yokne'am-based maker of automatic vision inspection systems, reported third-quarter net profits of \$120,000 compared with a loss of \$272,000 in the same period last year.

Third quarter revenues were up 105% to \$37m, the highest quarterly revenues to date, compared with \$18.8m for the same period in 1995.

The company attributed the increase in revenues and income to textile manufacturers' increased demand for its electronic fabric-inspection equipment. Elbit Vision Systems, a subsidiary of Elbit Ltd. of Haifa, makes systems designed to increase the accuracy, consistency and speed of the detection and identification of defects in the textile manufacturing process.

Teledata Communications (Nasdaq: TLDCF) reported a third-quarter jump in net income to \$2 million from \$544,088 in the corresponding period last year.

Third quarter revenues were up 74 percent to \$16m. from \$9.2m. The company's year-to-date sales already exceed total sales for 1993, when Teledata hit its yearly sales record of \$36.9m.

The Herzliya-based company designs, develops and manufactures the portion of the public telephone network that links individual users to a local exchange. The company uses fiber, copper and wireless digital transmission technologies and markets its products in Europe, South and Central America, Asia, Africa and the Pacific Rim.

## Carmel Bank seeks to buy Maritime Bank

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CARMEL Bank's owners are negotiating to gain control of Maritime Bank in the framework of Carmel's plans to expand its activity, predominantly in the mortgage sector, and enter commercial banking.

Over the last few years, almost all of the small mortgage banks have tried to expand their activities in the commercial banking field. The possibility of a merger is expected to increase the two banks' chances of competing in the sector, currently dominated by the three largest banking groups.

Earlier this week, Carmel Bank's controlling shareholder Jacques Beer and Maritime Bank chairman Shimon Topper flew to the US in order to push forward negotiations. Topper and US investment manager Michael Steinhardt, who together hold 37% of the bank's shares, gained

control of Maritime Bank about five years ago.

Bank Carmel general manager Shalev Hochman and Maritime Bank general manager David Levinson refused to confirm or deny the possibility of a merger.

The two banks investigated the possibility of a share exchange about two years ago but the deal fell through following Carmel Bank's controlling shareholders' failure to reach agreement.

Carmel Bank is among the smallest mortgage and investment banks in the country, while Maritime Bank is among the smallest commercial banks. Maritime Bank completed the first six months of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 612,000 compared with a net profit of NIS 2m. in the same period last year. The bank's shareholders' equity of NIS

## MUNICIPALITY OF NAHARIYA ISRAEL

Resubmission of Tender 100/96

Invitation to tender no. 100/96 concerning supply of and outside paving with combined paving stones in the City of Nahariya. The ordered quantity is 15,000m<sup>2</sup> for paving the "Children's State" park. The municipality reserves the right of increasing the order up to a total quantity of 60,000m<sup>2</sup>.

All conditions of the tender are as detailed in the contract, that may be obtained at the town engineer's office against a non-refundable deposit of NIS2,000 (9650).

Offers must be submitted as detailed and explained in the conditions of the tender document, not later than 12.00 a.m., November 20, 1996.

Jacki Sabag Mayor

## Ministry of the Interior Planning Director

### Request for Planning (RFP)

The Coastal Zone Committee within the Ministry of the Interior has decided to prepare a policy Plan for Coastal Zone Management.

This RFP is intended for those interested in submitting a detailed proposal of a work plan in accordance with the RFP specifications, that may be purchased for a fee of NIS 500, from Mr. Yosef Grinzwig, Director of Facilities, Ministry of the Interior, Kiryat Ben Gurion, 2 Kaplan Street, Room 105, Jerusalem, until November 21, 1996, Sunday - Thursday between the hours of 9:00 - 13:00.

The final date for submission is December 22, 1996, until 12:00 noon.

All questions regarding the RFP should be sent via fax to: 02-5670617, Attention: Mrs. Dina Rachevsky.

## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patrol (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit rate)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$20,000)	4.70	5.00	5.57
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.575	3.05	2.50
French franc (FF 200,000)	1.825	1.85	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.85	1.00
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

### Shiketi Foreign Exchange Bank (6.11.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Buy
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6213	3.6798	3.616	3.62	3.6402
German mark	3.2296	3.2700	3.216	3.22	3.2400
French franc	2.1308	2.1644	2.09	2.10	2.1200
Japanese yen (100)	0.8298	0.8407	0.81	0.82	0.8325
Dutch florin	2.8310	2.8787	2.78	2.82	2.8400
Swiss franc	1.9000	1.9307	1.88	1.90	1.9100
Swedish krona	3.0276	3.0788	2.97	3.02	3.0400
Norwegian krona	0.4888	0.4947	0.47	0.51	0.5200
Danish krona	0.5082	0.5184	0.49	0.53	0.5400
Finland mark	0.5548	0.5638	0.54	0.58	0.5900
Canadian dollar	0.7098	0.7210	0.69	0.74	0.7500
Australian dollar	2.4119	2.4498	2.38	2.46	2.4800
S. African rand	2.8384	2.8788	2.49	2.82	2.8400
Belgian franc (10)	0.8861	0.8978	0.82	0.90	0.9100
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0940	1.0907	1.01	1.07	1.0800
Italian lire (1000)	3.0276	3.0788	2.97	3.12	3.1400
Jordanian dinar	2.1213	2.1688	2.08	2.18	2.2000
Egyptian pound	4.4800	4.7000	4.48	4.78	4.8000
ECU	0.9200	1.0000	0.92	1.00	1.0200
Irish punt	4.0682	4.1882	3.98	4.08	4.1000
Spanish peseta (100)	6.3308	6.4788	6.28	6.48	6.5000
	2.8308	2.8718	2.48	2.48	2.5000

\*These rates vary according to bank. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Shares rise, buoyed by Clinton win

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARE indexes rose 1 percent, buoyed by US President Bill Clinton's reelection. Bezeq rallied 1.5% as a press report today said the company plans to sell shares in its mobile phone subsidiary. The stock rose even as the government awarded two licenses to groups that will rival the state-controlled telecommunications company in providing long-distance services. Clinton's reelection and the Republicans' retention of control in Congress mean that economically "the status quo will continue," said Jonathan Half, who runs the Tel Aviv office of Oscar Gruss. The reelection sparked a rally in financial markets. The Two-Sided Index advanced 0.99% to 189.33 while the Maof Index added 1.15% to 199.33. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 61.3 million of shares traded, 36% more than the daily average of 45.2m. this month. About three issues rose for every two that fell.

Eurobourses surge on Clinton win

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses climbed sharply yesterday as investors cheered President Clinton's re-election and the Republicans retaining their grip on Congress as good for business. Frankfurt and Paris chalked up strong gains as the Republican victory in the House and Senate lifted hopes that a lid would be kept on US government spending. Worries about big Democrat inroads into Congress had rattled markets ahead of the election because of worries that could spark increased public spending to Washington. In Paris, shares leapt to a year's high at the opening, on the back of Clinton's return for a second term. The blue-chip CAC-40 index was up over 1 percent in heavy trading. The best performer was Frankfurt where floor trading registered a gain of 1.4% at the close, helped by the Clinton win, overnight gains on Wall Street and the firmer dollar. London put on the poorest showing, with the FTSE index making only modest gains as US election momentum was eroded by fears over more interest rate hikes after last week's surprise increase of 0.25 percentage point. The Bank of England warned Brito's Conservative government it was unlikely to meet its 2.5 percent inflation target and would probably have to raise interest rates again. In Madrid, stocks rose to historic peaks at one point, sharing the general euphoria elsewhere in Europe but later slipped back. Spanish bonds also hit new highs. The election fever earlier swept Hong Kong stocks to record high levels as investors viewed the results as a promise of stable economic policy and looked forward to a rally in US stocks. The Hang Seng index of blue chip stocks closed 272.77 points higher at a record 12,775.47. The foreign exchanges were cheered in early transactions by Clinton's win but were clearly relieved his hands will be tied by a Republican Congress, regarded as pro-business.

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Dow sets new record

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks shot to new highs yesterday as Wall Street celebrated the prospect of at least two more years of bipartisan constraints on the government's spending habits. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average soared by 96.53 points to close at 6,177.71, barreling past Oct. 18's record close at 6,094.23. Broad-market indexes jumped too, with the Standard and Poor's 500 list and the New York Stock Exchange composite index padding Tuesday's record highs. Investors had been hopeful that the current divisions of federal power would remain in place, keeping the legislative whims of either party and inflationary government borrowing and spending in check. Pharmaceutical and health care issues were among the biggest beneficiaries of Wall Street's post-election euphoria. Had the Republicans lost control of Congress, the Democrats might have taken another swing at sweeping health care reforms that may have choked profits. Merck was one of the Dow's best performers, while United HealthCare and Oxford Health advanced sharply. The Dow's other big gainers were Philip Morris and IBM. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 10.46 to 724.60, and the NYSE's composite index rose 5.12 to 383.55. The Nasdaq composite index rose 16.41 to 1,245.48, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index rose 4.25 to 577.87.

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CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, and FFf.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading tables listing various stocks and their prices.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES table listing various international stocks and their prices.

Key Representative Rates table showing exchange rates for US Dollar, Sterling, and German mark.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET table showing market indices.

Other stock market indexes table showing various market indices.

Israeli stocks in US table showing stock prices.

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC table showing stock prices.

LIBOR RATES table showing interest rates for various terms.

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# Clinton gets nearly 80% of Jewish vote

WHILE Bill Clinton garnered nearly 50 percent of the popular vote on Tuesday, he scored higher among Jews, who voted by a margin of 79% in favor of the incumbent against 16 percent for the Republican challenger Bob Dole, according to exit polls conducted Tuesday by the Voters News Service.

Clinton, in his re-election bid, swept the Northeast, the West Coast, the industrial Midwest, and Florida - areas with significant Jewish enclaves.

Jews comprise only 2.5% of the eligible voters, but they are concentrated in states with a large number of votes in the Electoral College, which actually chooses the president. It was not clear yesterday whether the Jewish vote had tipped the balance in Clinton's favor in any state.

Only half of the eligible

MARILYN HENRY  
NEW YORK

American voters turned out on Tuesday. While Jews usually vote in high numbers, this year's Election Day also saw a drop in the percentage of the Jewish vote, analysts said. In New York City, for example, the Jewish turnout was about 60%, against a 77% turnout in the 1992 presidential election, according to a precinct analysis conducted by the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Although New York City is known for its liberalism, Clinton did not fare any better among Jewish voters here than in the overall national Jewish tally. The president got 78% of the Jewish vote in New York City, against 18% for Dole and 4% for Ross

Perot, the Reform Party candidate. Perot got 3% of the national Jewish vote, according to the Voters News Service.

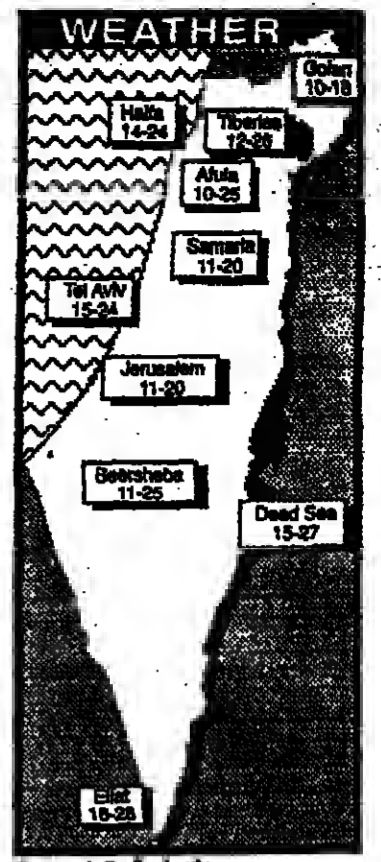
California Jews registered some surprising votes. Clinton got 74%, against 12% for Dole, 6% for Perot and 7% for Ralph Nader, a long-time consumer advocate who ran as an independent.

The Jewish support for Clinton was not unexpected. In 1992, the Jewish community voted for the Clinton/Gore ticket over Republican President George Bush by an equally wide margin.

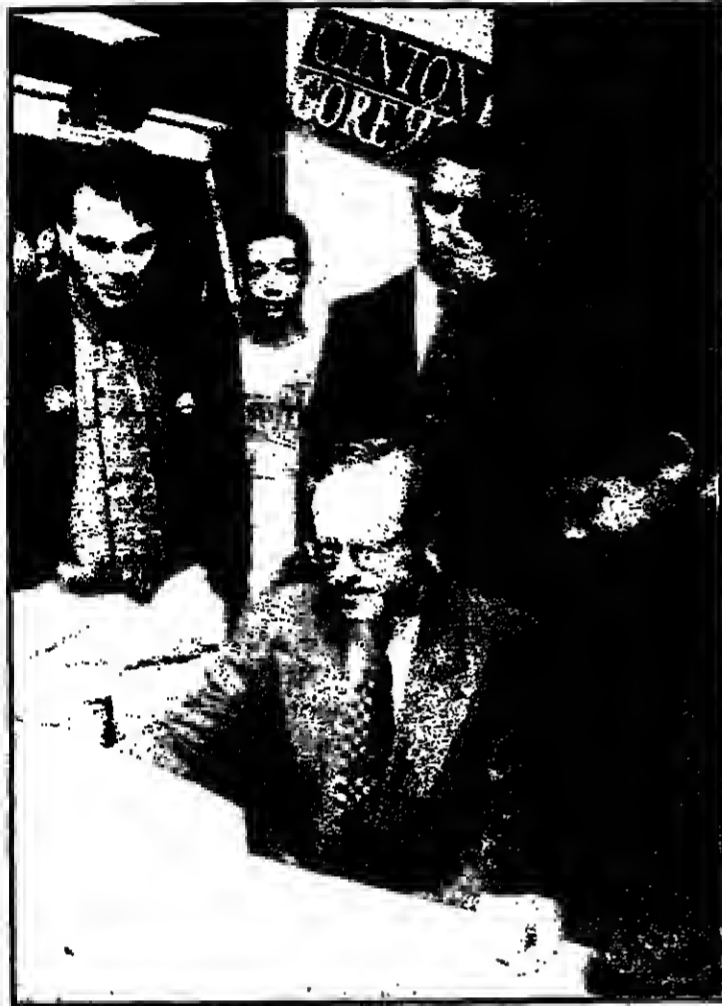
Jewish voters have traditionally cast their ballots for the Democratic Party, and key Jewish leaders - including five former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations - had publicly aligned themselves with the Clinton campaign.



Americans enjoy pizza and beer while watching the US election returns at Tel Aviv's Chicago Pizza Pie Factory early yesterday. (Tom Orendyver/Israel Sam)



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Slight rise in temperatures.



US Ambassador Martin Indyk checks out the election returns over the Internet at the American Cultural Center. (Brian Huppeler)

# Chelsea's generation roots for her dad from Tel Aviv

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE 200 noisy Americans who took over Tel Aviv's Chicago Pizza Pie Factory for a US election night party were closer to Chelsea Clinton's generation than to her father's. Nonetheless, by comparison with Clinton, Bob Dole might have been from another planet - his supporters were as thin on the ground as the pizzas were thick.

"I'm very excited," yelled student Greg Litofsky above the din of cheering, rock music, and television broadcasts incoming and outgoing. "It's cool to be in Israel and still together with all these Americans for election night with all these 'Clinton-Gore' and 'Dole-Kemp' posters all over the place."

The huge pizzeria was chocablock despite the carefully controlled entrance manned by two menacing bouncers in tuxedos. There was plenty of hot pizza and foaming jugs of cold beer - all free and dispensed by cheerful staff weaving through the melee.

There was wall-to-wall delight that Clinton was about to be re-elected president of the United States - the first Democrat to win a second term in 60 years.

Some of the many smokers in the room chortled over a report that "non smokers of Israel" backed Clinton. Nonetheless, the "true inhalers" were cheerfully tolerated by their sworn enemies, the American non-smokers, for a night of peaceful coexistence as Clintonites all.

"Clinton's the man; we hope. No, we know - he's going to win," chimed guys and gals in unison. And Dole? "Ole Dole - he doesn't

stand a chance."

A lone voice rooting for Dole was not so much a cry as a whisper in the wilderness. Dan Beckman said he thought Dole had the better, stronger character and he liked what he stood for - old world values and all that.

"I'm sure there are others who support Dole here, they're just not as outrageous as I am to come out and say it," he said.

But even he had to admit that "Clinton is young, charismatic and very Kennedy-esque. The best man to take America into the future probably is Clinton."

The crowd burst into wild applause at 11 p.m., when the giant television screen showed Clinton casting his vote, then switched as one to boos and catcalls for Dole.

"This is a very biased crowd, you'll find," said Todd Shatz, of Philadelphia, somewhat redundantly. It was at this point that Channel 1's Gil Tamari announced the results of a straw poll in his live broadcast from the Pizza Pie Factory: a 149-11 landslide for Clinton.

"The first thing Clinton will do after he wins the elections is give Bibi [Netanyahu] a call and tell him exactly what he can do with himself," said one youngster.

Others ignored politics and fantasized about Chelsea - who entered the White House aged 12 and will leave it at 20. "Wow! Just imagine bringing your first boyfriend home to meet daddy," sighed Melissa Beckman. "Or how

about your president dad chaperoning you to the prom?" said another girl.

"How could you impress her on a first date?" This worried one of the guys. "Yeah," said another, "what about the 'my dad does this, what does your dad do' bit. You'd feel kinda... silly."

One group of young Americans explained why it was so obvious Clinton would win. "Economic growth, good performance, the right sort of values - peace and stuff and, you know, youth and looks."

Another said: "It's a rule in political science: you don't change the government if the economic situation is good. How could anyone vote otherwise?"

Someone reminded him that they were in a country where the exact opposite happened. Then they rose collectively and raised their beer mugs to roar out "The Star Spangled Banner" while a talented girl with a trumpet had her few moments of fame backing them on camera.

A final roar of excitement went up as the first televideo exit poll revealed that Clinton had pulled off a real coup and captured Florida. That was it - nothing more to add except count up the rest of the winnings.

Outside the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory at 1 a.m., a black-and-white cat slid quietly across a deserted Hayarkon Street.

Either it had been quietly watching from under a table - or it was off to join a little feline celebration for the reelection of Socks, the First Cat.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HI	MOON	COND.	
	C	F	C	F	
Amsterdam	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Brussels	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	10	15	cloudy
London	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Madrid	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Paris	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Rome	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Stockholm	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Toronto	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Washington	10	15	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	10	15	cloudy

**Winning cards**  
In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, 10 of hearts, seven of diamonds and king of clubs.

### Court decides not to force suspension of Col. Horev

EVELYN GORDON

COL. Moni Horev may continue to head the IDF Officers Training School, the High Court of Justice said yesterday.

It was ruling on a petition by Masoud and Aliza Shoshan, whose son Yanai was killed in an army training accident in 1994. Horev, who was Yanai's brigade commander at the time, was later indicted for negligence leading to the death, for allegedly having failed to ensure that his soldiers were aware of new safety regulations promulgated after a similar accident a few months earlier. His trial is currently in process.

The Shoshans' attorney, Eliad Shraga, argued that someone accused of causing a soldier's death by negligence cannot be entrusted with training other young officers. Not only will Horev set the wrong type of example, Shraga said, but his appointment will also undermine the faith of both soldiers and their parents in the army.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, however, decided not to suspend Horev. He noted that the entire indictment revolves around the question of what command level is responsible for enforcing safety regulations - a question on which senior army staffers are divided, and which has never been decided by the military courts. Since the court might well decide that the brigade commander is not responsible - in which case Horev would automatically be acquitted - it would be unfair to suspend him at this stage, Shahak said.

Shahak also gave many other arguments to back up his decision, including the general presumption of innocence from which any defendant benefits; Horev's excellent performance as head of the school so far and the damage the school would suffer by switching commanders after only a few months; and the fact that even if Horev were found guilty, his degree of responsibility would still be fairly distant.

Justices Aharon Barak, Eliahu Mazza and Yitzhak Zamir noted that the court's policy is to intervene in such questions only if a decision is so unreasonable that no reasonable man could have reached it. This is not the case here, they said.

The justices stressed that they found much merit in the petitioners' arguments, and would have considered it reasonable had Shahak decided to suspend Horev. However, they said, they also found much merit in Shahak's position, and therefore considered it equally reasonable for him to have reached the conclusion he did.

This is a borderline case, they said, and in such a case, the guiding principle must be non-intervention on the court's part.

Masoud Shoshan reacted with disappointment to the verdict, saying it would encourage carelessness and negligence.

"The High Court is not willing to stand up to the army," he charged.

# In Jerusalem, a taste of US elections

HERB KEINON

WITH red, white and blue bunting, a band, bagels and campaign buttons, the American Cultural Center was decked out to greet dozens of people who came yesterday morning - expatriates as well as Israeli high school students - for a whiff of an American election night.

The crowd included those who missed being at a campaign headquarters in the thick of the action, as well as those who have never visited the US.

They watched CNN results, plugged into the Internet for the results of local races and tapped their feet to the bluegrass music of a band called the Stompers.

"For about the last 30 years there wasn't an election night where I wasn't at a campaign somewhere," said Phil Munishor, who was sporting a red and blue inaugural tie featuring a liberty eagle. "I miss that

communal atmosphere of being at an election headquarters."

What made the event at the cultural center different, said Munishor, a Denver native who moved to Israel with his wife and their two elementary-school aged children two years ago, was that it was non-partisan.

While Munishor hadn't missed an election night at a US party headquarters in many years, Ariel Amir has never been to any of the states whose names he watched flash across the CNN news in the morning.

Amir, 15, a 10th-grader at the University High School in Jerusalem, is in an American history class, and his teacher thought the class should get a feeling for an American election.

"We were here since 6 in the morning," Amir said. "We watched the results and

the speeches.

"Elections in Israel are more interesting. In the US they deal with more internal issues, here we deal with questions of survival. There, politics is less important; here, it is at the center of our lives. The differences between Republicans and Democrats are not so great, nothing like the differences between the Left and Right here."

Amir's teacher, Ronit Oppenheim, said that the one observation she heard the most from her students was that both candidates were gracious to one another in their post-election speeches.

"They were impressed by how each candidate seemed to respect his opponent," Oppenheim said.

US Ambassador Martin Indyk, who came to the center, congratulated Clinton and Gore and told the crowd, "It's a great day today - I still have a job."

Regarding the direction the US Administration will now take in its Middle East policy, Indyk said that Clinton's "commitment to peace in the region was manifest during the first four years, and will continue to manifest itself for the next few years."

Indyk said Clinton is committed to "completing the legacy of my friend, Rabin."

Indyk pledged that the US will continue to stand by its policy of "minimizing risks for those willing to make calculated risks for peace." The ambassador said not to expect a change in "tenor" toward Israel and that Clinton hopes to see peace in the

Middle East as one of his legacies.

Hebrew University professor Eytan Gilboa, speaking at a panel discussion at the center, said that from Israel's point of view, it is good that the Republicans retained control of the Congress, while the Democrats held onto the White House.

"The split is good," he said. "That way if the government is uncomfortable with the pressure coming from the White House, it can turn to AIPAC to mobilize Capital Hill to put the brakes on."

Gilboa said that Clinton has a good, reflexive feeling for Israel and that he is one of the four presidents who have been the best for Israel. The other pro-Israel presidents Gilboa enumerated were Harry Truman, Richard Nixon - "even though he was antisemitic" - and Ronald Reagan.

# Role of kibbutz-backed officials diminished in Mordechai's Defense Ministry

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has appointed a former fellow general to head the Youth and Nahal Branch of the Defense Ministry, rebuffing pressure by

kibbutz movements to place a kibbutznik in the job.

The position, which deals with increasing the value of military service in Israel and combating the

dramatic drop in motivation, went to Brig.-Gen. Yehuda Duvdevani, the ministry said. Duvdevani will be replacing Doron Tondovsky who has held the job for the past four years.

Besides Tondovsky, Noah Kinari, the minister's adviser on settlement, is also reportedly leaving the Defense Ministry. Both Tondovsky and Kinari were appointed by the late Yitzhak Rabin.

According to reports in the daily *Ha'aretz*, Mordechai has been under pressure to remove those who identified with the previous government. Both Tondovsky and Kinari informed the kibbutz movements of their intentions to leave and movement leaders reportedly asked Mordechai to replace them with a kibbutznik.

Instead, he appointed Duvdevani, a native of Petah Tikva. In his youth, Duvdevani, 52, joined the Labor Youth and then enlisted into the Nahal unit linked to Kibbutz Amiad.

# Mordechai to investigate Shohor affair

LIAT COLLINS

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has decided not to appoint an investigating officer into the Oren Shohor affair, but he will personally examine the matter of the meetings between the government's coordinator in the territories and opposition MKs.

Mordechai told the Knesset yesterday that he had decided to suspend Shohor for an unspecified period of time from his position as head of the negotiating team on civil affairs in order to ensure the IDF remain unimpaired by politics.

"We're at a sensitive stage of negotiations in which there are disputes and ups and downs and every meeting must receive prior approval," Mordechai said.

MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said Mordechai should examine whether the opposition had used Shohor to serve its interests. MK Haggai Merom (Labor) said IDF officers are scared that their phones are being tapped or that they are under surveillance. MK Silvan Shalom (Likud) said had the government not responded as it did, hundreds of meetings between military and political figures would have taken place.

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) asked how Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had the moral right to suspend Shohor when he had revealed the so-called Stauber Document from the plenum when he was opposition leader. Brig.-Gen. Zvi Stauber was then a senior officer in the IDF's Planning Branch.

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